

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

(first) name - middle name - second name/surname/last name/family name:

John Peter Smith

Cultural note: in Britain and the United States, when a woman gets married, she often takes her husband's last name (=married name) and loses her own last name (=maiden name). Is this the same in your country?

Social titles in English					
Feminine	Miss	Mrs (=Mistress)	Ms	Madam	Lady
Masculine	Mr (=Mister)			Sir	Lord
Unisex	Dr (=Doctor) - Prof (=Professor)				

Miss /^mIS/: a title used before the family name or full name of a woman who is not married: Dr White will see you now, Miss Carter/ Miss Helena Carter.

Mrs /^mISIZ/: a title used before the family name or full name of a married woman: Mrs Wood/Mrs Jean Wood.

Ms /^mIZ/: a title used before the family name or the full name of a woman, whether she is married or not: Ms Hill/Ms Paula Hill.

Madam: 1. used to address a woman who has an important official position: Madam President/Ambassador etc.

2. used to address a woman in a polite way (e.g. a customer in a shop): Are you being served, Madam?

3. Dear Madam: used at the beginning of a formal letter to a woman whose name you do not know.

Lady: a title given in Britain to a woman or girl of the aristocracy (=baroness, duchess, etc.): Sir Charles and Lady Finlater.

Mr /^mISTə/: 1. a title used before the family name or full name of a man: Mr (David) Jones.

2. used to address a man who has an important official position: Mr. President.

Sir: 1. used to address a man in a polite way: Don't forget your hat, sir.

2. Dear Sir/Sirs : used at the beginning of a formal letter to a man or to people you do not know. Also: Dear Sir or Madam

Lord: a title given to a man of the aristocracy: Lord Salisbury.The equivalent for a woman is "Lady".

Dr: a person who has the highest degree from a college or university: Dr Tina Pritchard.

Prof: a university or college teacher in the highest academic rank: Professor Stephen Hawking.

age, profession/job, nationality, marital status (single, married, divorced, separated), **phone number, passport number, identity card number, home address, e-mail address, webpage...**

- Age: I am 32 years old.

I was born on (the) 22nd (of) November, 1985. (BrE)

I was born on March (the) 1st, 1965. (AmE)

- Home address: I live in San Agustín. / I live at San Agustín, 81.

Cultural note: in Spain we say the name of the street/road first and then the number. In Britain the number is said first: I live at 12 Chandlers Street.

- E-mail address and webpage:

@ = at . = dot / = forward slash \ = back slash _ low line or underscore - dash

DESCRIPTIONS OF PEOPLE:

When you are asked to describe somebody, you may need to include the following ideas/paragraphs:

1. **An introduction:** give brief information about who the person is, when/where/how you met him/her, how you heard about him/her, etc.

2. **Physical appearance:** to describe physical appearance you should give details of the person's height/build, age, hair, clothing... (See "Appearance").

3. **Personality / Behaviour:** give information about the person's personality. (See "Character and personality").

4. **Details of the person's life and lifestyle:** talk about the person's habits/ daily routines, likes/ dislikes (e.g. her/his interests, hobbies, sports, languages...), profession, family, ambitions/dreams, etc.

▪ To talk about habits/routines, use the present simple and expressions of frequency (e.g. every day, once a month) at the beginning /end of the sentence or adverbs of frequency: (100 %) always - usually - normally - often - sometimes - never (0 %)

Position of these adverbs: after "be" or an auxiliary (e.g. "can"), but before important verbs: Every day she gets up early and goes to work. After work she always watches TV. She has dinner at eight and goes to bed at about eleven.

▪ To talk about likes and dislikes:

- S/He likes/dislikes/loves/hates/prefers + noun: animals, babies, chocolate, Christmas, computer games, dogs, hot baths, long car journeys, snow, sports cars, tattoos, the cinema...: She likes cats and dogs.

- Prefer sth to sth else: I prefer dogs to cats.

- S/He likes/loves/hates/prefers + to inf/ v-ing: to buy/buying presents, cook, club, dance, fish, garden, iron clothes, go to the cinema/ movies, go to the gym, go to the theatre, go out to bars/ pubs /clubs, go trekking in the outdoors, learn languages, listen to music, meet people, paint, play cards, play chess, play the guitar, read books, receive flowers, run, shop, smoke, skate, study, sunbathe, travel by plane, visit friends, walk, walk my dog, watch TV, watch sport on TV, work for myself...: He hates watching TV/He hates to watch TV.

- S/He dislikes/enjoys + v-ing: He dislikes gardening.

- S/He feels like + v-ing: He often feels like staying at home with a good book.

- S/He would like/would love/would hate/would prefer + to inf: She would like to do yoga but she doesn't have time.

- S/He is good at ...: She's very good at Geography.

▪ Hobbies: cooking, collecting (coins, dolls, stamps...), dancing, going to see a musical/ a rock concert/ a gig/ your favourite football team, listening to music, gardening, making jewellery/models (e.g. buildings, cars, machines...), painting, playing cards/ chess/ draughts, playing basketball/football, reading a book, shopping, skating, studying, running, taking photos...

▪ Sports: to be sporty

play + ball sports (football, tennis, volleyball, basketball...), board and card games

go + activities that we can do alone (walking, running, swimming, fishing, sailing, cycling, scuba diving, rafting...)

do + gym sports and sports finished with -s (athletics, aerobics, gymnastics, yoga, martial arts...): He loves going running and he does yoga.

▪ Job: to be a/an ... (profession); to work abroad. She is a nurse and she works at the hospital. She likes her job very much but it isn't easy.

▪ Family: He lives in a large house near San Francisco with his second wife, Marsha. They've got two children, Zelda and Cody, and he has got one child from his first marriage.

▪ Ambitions (+ to inf): sth you want to do one day: **Andrew's ambition is to climb Mt Everest.**

▪ Dreams (+ to inf): sth you want to happen very much but that is not very probable.

Dreams and ambitions: to appear on TV, to be a professional tennis player/ footballer, to be in a rock band, to become famous/ to become Prime Minister/ to become wealthy, to buy a car/ to buy a house/ to buy a flat, to earn €1 million, to get married, to go round the world/ to go abroad, to go to university (when I leave school), to have children (when I'm in my thirties), to learn (how) to drive/ to learn (how) to speak Chinese/ to learn (how) to swim, to make a film, to meet a famous person, to pass an exam with distinction (e.g. the A-levels), to finish the lower sixth-form/ upper sixth-form, to run the 10,000 metres in under 30 minutes, to spend a month living in New York, to start my own business, to stop smoking, to win a prize for a sport/ for dancing, to write a novel/ a book/ an article...

5. **A conclusion:** comment on why the person is of interest, express your feelings/ opinion concerning the person, possibly also why s/he made such a strong impression on you or how s/he has influenced you...

▪ Useful expressions to express your feelings/opinion about the person:

Personally I think that...: **Personally I think that he is rude because he never says "hello".**

From my point of view.../ In my opinion: **In my opinion she is a wonderful person because she likes helping people...**

APPEARANCE

The question we use to ask about appearance is: **What ... look like?**

What does your sister look like? - She is tall and slim, with dark hair.

When we describe a person physically, height, build, and hair are the aspects we tend to concentrate on. We may also mention other features (eyes, nose, etc.) but usually only if they are in some way significant.

▪ General appearance: women: to be **beautiful, pretty**; men: to be **handsome**; both: to be **good-looking, attractive**; to be **ugly** (strong); to be **ordinary-looking**.

▪ Age: to be 12/ 43/ 67 years old; to be/look **about** thirty (= 29, 30, 31); to be **in his/her twenties/thirties/ forties**, to be in his/her early twenties (=21, 22, 23); to be in his mid-thirties (=34, 35, 36); to be in his/her late fifties (=57, 58, 59).

▪ Stages of life: to be a **baby/ an old child/ a teenager/ a youngster/ an adult/ middle-aged /an elderly person**.

▪ Height and build: to be **tall/ short/ medium height**; to be **fat** (strong)/ **obese/ overweight** (more polite); **thin** (more negative), **slim** (thin in an attractive way); to be **well built** (=big and strong): **She is (of) medium height.** **He is well built.**

▪ Hair: to have a **fringe**; to be **bald**; to have my head shaved

Size: To have **long/short** hair

Shape: To have **curly/straight/wavy** hair; **spiky** hair

Colour: To have **black/dark/ fair/ blond(e)/ brown/red/ grey/ white** hair; to have a **few touches of grey** hair; to have **highlights**; to have **dyed hair**; to have **my hair dyed blonde**.

Word order: size, shape, colour: **She has long curly black hair.**

▪ Face and skin: to have a **square/ round/ long/ thin** face; to have a **lovely/ interesting** face; to have **freckles/ wrinkles**; to have **fair skin/ dark skin**; to be **black**; to be **sun-tanned**; to have a **beard / a moustache**: **He's got fair skin. I don't like men with beards.**

▪ Eyes/Nose/Ears/Mouth: to have **dark/ brown/ blue/ green** eyes; to **wear glasses**; to have a **big/ small/ round** nose; to have **big/ small** ears; to have a **big/small** mouth, to have a **nice smile**.

▪ Clothes: adjectives: smart, elegant, well-dressed, formal, trendy (=fashionable), casual: She always looks very smart.

To be well-dressed / casually dressed: She is always quite well-dressed.

To dress simply/ fashionably/ well: She dresses simply but she looks elegant. She dresses very well.

To dress in (colour): Anne always dresses in black.

To wear + clothes/jewellery/glasses (e.g. smart/casual ... clothes): S/He usually wears jeans and T-shirts/ formal clothes /casual clothes/ smart clothes/ tracksuits...

▪ For more vocabulary on clothes, check your student's book, page 151.

CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY

The question we use to ask about personality/ character is: **What/ be/ like?**

What is your sister like? - She is intelligent and shy.

▪ **Intellectual ability:**

To be intelligent, clever

To be stupid, silly

To be imaginative

To be unimaginative

▪ **Attitudes towards other people:** to be ...

fun, funny, fun-loving

serious

(fun = you have a good time with her/him, funny = s/he makes you laugh)

interesting

boring

unselfish, generous

selfish, mean

kind

unkind

friendly, nice (=friendly and kind)

unfriendly

affectionate, caring, loving

sociable (=likes meeting new people)

hospitable

sincere, honest

insincere, dishonest

talkative

quiet

tolerant

intolerant

popular

unpopular

aggressive, rude, jealous, noisy

▪ **Attitudes towards life, work, things...:** to be...

tidy

untidy

organized

disorganized, messy

hard-working, workaholic (← negative)

lazy

responsible

irresponsible

patient

impatient

happy

unhappy

optimistic

pessimistic

ambitious

unambitious

open, extrovert(ed), outgoing

introvert(ed), shy

poor

rich

relaxed

active (= likes doing exercise)

* **Expressions:**

to have a good sense of humour (=funny): She has a good sense of humour.

to laugh a lot / to make people laugh: I like men who can make me laugh.

to be good at listening / to be a good listener; to be good with animals

to be very careful with money

to talk a lot/ to talk all the time: I like women who talk a lot.

to be into sth: I like men who are into literature and art.