

Ten Ways to Say Someone is Beautiful or Sexy in English

Language Focus 11 words, **Level:** Intermediate - Advanced

**(These words are common in most English speaking countries unless marked)*

There are **dozens** of ways to say someone is beautiful in English, and they all have **subtly** different meanings. If you read a lot or watch English-language television then you will surely have **come across** at least some of these.

Cute

This can also be used in a non-romantic way for children and animals, and is usually seen as more innocent and **family-friendly** than some of the others on this list.

*The way she bites her lip when she's thinking is so **cute**.*

Dishy (UK)

This is more often used to describe a man than a woman. It means that he is very handsome or attractive and usually **fairly charming** too.

*The nurses all want to date the **dishy** doctor from Cardiology.*

Easy on the eyes

This phrase means pleasant to look at, and it can refer to an object as well as a person. It's a fairly relaxed way to talk about someone.

*I'll watch movie that has Angelina Jolie in it – she's very **easy on the eyes**.*

Fine

This is an old one – think of the song 'He's So Fine' from 1963 – but it's still used as slang today. It means the person looks nice and that you are attracted to them. It also **implies** that they've made an effort with their appearance.

*That guy is so **fine**, I'm going to ask him out.*

a **fine thing = used in Ireland to describe someone you are attracted to.*

She is a **fine thing.*

Fit *(not used in the US)*

The main meaning of 'fit' is that the person is healthy and exercises a lot, but it has also come to mean attractive, and especially someone with a nice body.

*Wow, that guy standing at the bar is so **fit**!*

Foxy

Think of the Jimi Hendrix song "Foxy Lady. A **slightly old-fashioned** one, but still sometimes used today. It is normally used to describe a woman and means that she is very physically attractive.

*I'm looking for a **foxy** lady to take out to dinner.*

Gorgeous

A very commonly used description of either an attractive man or woman, gorgeous can also be used for a lovely view, a nice dress, or really anything that you think is pretty.

*I saw a **gorgeous** guy on the bus but he didn't notice me.*

Hot

This one is closest to 'sexy' in that it implies a definite sexual interest in the person you're describing.

*She looks so **hot** in that dress.*

Ravishing

This is quite old-fashioned and has more of a romantic than a sexual feel to it. Ravishing is just about the most beautiful you can possibly look.

*She came down the stairs looking **ravishing** in her new black dress*

Stunning

Stunning **literally** means that you feel **stunned** or **speechless** when you look at someone. It can be used to describe a man or a woman, and means impressively or shockingly attractive.

*Look at that woman at the bar. She is **stunning**! She's incredibly beautiful.*

A babe

The word 'babe' comes from 'baby' and is also used as a term of affection between couples. A boyfriend can call his girlfriend 'babe'. Saying someone is a 'babe' means you think they are beautiful.

*Rihanna is a **babe**.*

As with any new vocabulary, the best way to learn is to use the words as much as possible. So get out there and **people-watch** with your friends, so you can discuss who is cute and who is stunning!

Language Focus : Vocabulary + Expressions

1. **Dozens** - (pl noun) group of 12

- *I bought a **dozen** eggs in the supermarket.*

2. **subtly different meanings** - (adverb) different meanings that are faint and hard to notice.

***Subtle** - (adjective) delicate, slight, almost unnoticeable

- *Some words in English have a **subtle** difference in pronunciation.*
- *There was a **subtle** taste of whiskey in the cake.*
- *He looked at the woman **subtly**.*

3. **come across** at least some of these - encountered or seen (by chance) before

***To come across sth (Phrasal Verb)** - to encounter, see something (by chance) before

- *"I have never **come across** that problem before" said the computer technician*

4. **Family-friendly** - (adjective) suitable for families / suitable to be used in front of families with young children.

- *The hotel is **family-friendly**. It has a creche for kids.*

5. *usually **fairly charming** too*

***Fairly** - (adverb) quite, more than average but less than "very"

***Charming** (adjective) - delightful, attractive - *If somebody is **charming** they are able to make people like them or become attracted to them (usually attracted in a sexual way)*

- *He is **fairly** tall.*

- **Charming** men always get what they want.

6. It also **implies** that - (verb: **To imply**) to hint or communicate an idea or feeling

- *I asked my girlfriend if she wanted to come running with me and she thought I was **implying** that she needed to lose weight.*

7. **slightly old-fashioned** - a little bit traditional or out of use/style

***Slightly** - (adverb) a little bit, by a small amount

***Old-fashioned** - old style, not modern (sth) / traditional or conservative in the way of thinking or acting (sb)

- *The pizza we got in the restaurant was **slightly** burned but it still tasted good.*
- *The expressions he uses are so **old-fashioned**. Nobody speaks like that anymore.*

8. **Literally** - in a literal manner - it means exactly as the word indicates

- *When you translate something **literally** from one language to another it often doesn't make sense*

9. **Stunned** - (adjective) - in a state of shock and unable to react

10. **Speechless** - (adjective) unable to speech due to shock or surprise

11. **People-watch** - spend time observing or looking at other people in a public place

- *I like to sit in a cafe and **people-watch** when I am on holidays in a different country.*

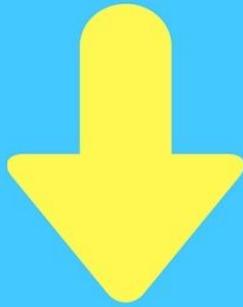
Language Focus: Exercises

Complete the sentences: EXERCISES

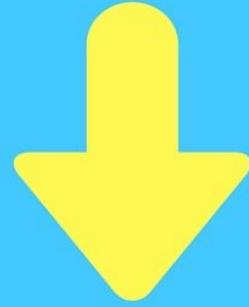
Complete these sentences with a **highlighted** word or phrase from the article.

1. The hotel was expensive. (*quite*)
2. The movie is not There is too much violence. (*suitable for families*)
3. My parents are very They don't agree with two people living together before they are married. (*traditional in the way they think*)
4. Scientists have a new species of bird in the forest. (*found by chance, encountered*)
5. There were of people waiting to get into the cafe this morning. (*group of 12*)
6. Her boss in her new job is quite (*delightful, attractive*)
7. Although he didn't say it directly, the CEO's speech that he might soon leave the company. (*communicated an idea or feeling, hinted*)
8. I like to sit in a cafe and when I am on holidays in a different country. (*actively observe people*)

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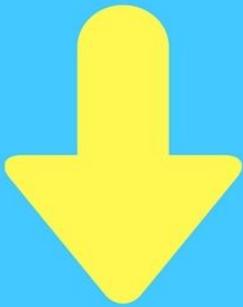


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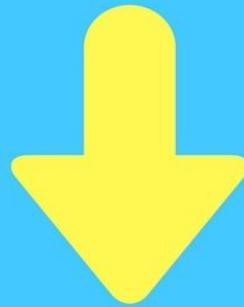


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ANSWERS SHEET

Complete the sentences: **ANSWERS**

1. The hotel was **fairly** expensive. (*quite*)
2. The movie is not **family-friendly**. There is too much violence. (*suitable for families*)
3. My parents are very **old-fashioned**. They don't agree with two people living together before they are married. (*traditional in the way they think*)
4. Scientists have **come across** a new species of bird in the forest. (*found by chance, encountered*)
5. There were **dozens** of people waiting to get into the cafe this morning. (*group of 12*)
6. Her boss in her new job is quite **charming**. (*delightful, attractive*)
7. Although he didn't say it directly, the CEO's speech **implied** that he might soon leave the company. (*communicated an idea or feeling, hinted*)
8. I like to sit in a cafe and **people-watch** when I am on holidays in a different country. (*actively observe people*)