

Quality

This unit is in the form of six passages, each of which deals with the **good, the bad** and the **ugly; complimentary and uncomplimentary** words, from the **unbelievably beautiful** to the **indescribably horrible**. Over 150 adjectives are included, so don't read all of them at once.

Reading 1

First, notice the contrasts in these excerpts from a letter.

Dear Helpful Hatti,
I am writing to you about my sister and all the problems I . . .
She has got **exquisite** features a **classic** profile a **scintillating** smile a **stunning** figure an **attractive** personality and a **marvellous** sense of humour.
I have got a very **plain** face very **ordinary** feature (according to my friends) a **rather ugly** smile a **nondescript** figure a **shallow and unappealing** character and a **coarse** sense of humour. What should I do?
She is a **sparkling** conversationalist a **fabulous** dancer a **graceful** mover **super efficient** at her **job**—a **talented** sportswoman and a **gifted** musician.
I am a very **dull** conversationalist a **clumsy** dancer an **awkward** mover an **incompetent** fool in the office **useless** at sport and **hopeless** at all musical instruments. What advice would you give me?
She is always **well dressed, smart, elegant**—extremely **ladylike**—very refined exceptionally **well mannered** and invariably **polite** to everyone.
I always look **shabby and scruffy**—I **tend to be rough common vulgar and rude**. What can I do about it?
She is very **cultured**—**well educated** well read.
I was always **backward** at school **semi literate** and am now very **ignorant**.
She is **bright intelligent witty and clever**.
I am **slow dim 'daft'**, my mother says '**thick**', says my father. Please help me.
I look forward to hearing from you.

Now read excerpts from two reviews of the same film.

an absorbing film a **fascinating** insight into —a **well thought out** plot **brilliant** acting **superb** photography **delicate** direction by many **dazzling** moments a **powerful** climax **thoroughly enjoyable** **totally satisfying** a **memorable** film.
an exceptionally tedious film —an **excessively slow and boring** look at life in a **chaotic** story line **exceedingly poor** performance by **awful, amateurish** camerawork under the **heavy handed** direction of **embarrassingly weak** script **horribly unnatural** dialogue —an **anti climax** an ending that was **ludicrous absurd laughable ridiculous** **totally nonsensical** **dreadfully disappointing** a **waste of time** **absolutely worthless** **pointless** **stupid**.

What do you think these two people are disagreeing about on this and the next page?

A ' a **spectacular** occasion
exciting movements
sensational colour
thrilling speed a **gripping**
climax **tremendous** fun

' a senseless 'sport'
mindless violence **brutal**
primitive **savage** and
degrading **inhuman**
a **disgraceful** exhibition

an **enthralling** spectacle
a **rewarding** experience!

a **scandalous** abuse of innocent
animals **revolting!**

Practice 1

Choose the most suitable of the four given words to complete each of the sentences below.

- He's not only tedious, he's also ...
a boring b incompetent c super efficient d brilliant
- Despite its director's high reputation, the film was ...
a extraordinary b gripping c embarrassing d powerful
- Can't always be elegant; sometimes I enjoy wearing ... clothes.
a scintillating b scruffy c shallow d rude
- Finally at the end, things hotted up; the ending was really
a gripping b delicate c chaotic d ludicrous
- Not all film stars are beautiful; some are quite
a exquisite b stunning c vulgar d plain
- We need someone well educated and
a illiterate b dim c coarse d well read
- He's an extremely ... pianist.
a graceful b gifted c exceptional d refined
- It wasn't exactly exciting, but it was certainly
a enthralling b absorbing c thrilling d gripping

Reading 2

- 1 Read these two opinions of the same holiday resort.

Excerpts from the tour operator's brochure:

Come to sunny Sandshire ... **magnificent** views ... **unforgettable** scenery ... a **splendid** cathedral, well worth visiting ... and many other **impressive** buildings ... quaint little villages ... **picturesque** harbours ... **enchanting** bays ... **gorgeous** beaches ... **pleasant** climate ... **colourful** night life ... **stimulating** atmosphere ... **delightful** for a holiday ... **ideal** for all the family ...

What George Grumbleweed had to say:

Well, the whole area's **rather drab and unwelcoming** ... the cathedral is a **monstrosity, absolutely hideous** ... most of the other buildings are **pretty grotesque**, too ... the villages are all **colourless and characterless** ... at night they're **completely dead ...** by the sea it's **really ghastly** ... the water's **filthy** and there's a **frightful** smell ... the coastline's very **bleak ... it's a horrible** place ... **totally unsuitable** for holidays ...

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- 2] And now two post cards from the same resort:

