**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 В '-a senseless 'sport'

**- exciting** movements - - **mindless** violence - **brutal**

**sensational colour - - primitive - savage and**

**thrilling** speed - a **gripping degrading - inhuman -**

climax - **tremendous fun - a disgraceful** exhibition -

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**Quality**

**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.

1 He's not only tedious, he's also ...

a boring b incompetent с super-efficient d brilliant

2 Despite its director's high reputation, the film was ...

a extraordinary b gripping с embarrassing d powerful

3 Can't always be elegant; sometimes I enjoy wearing ... clothes.

a scintillating b scruffy с shallow d rude

4 Finally at the end, things hotted up; the ending was really ....

a gripping b delicate с chaotic d ludicrous

5 Not all film stars are beautiful; some are quite ....

a exquisite b stunning с vulgar d plain

6 We need someone well-educated and ....

a illiterate b dim с coarse d well-read

7 He's an extremely ... pianist.

a graceful b gifted с exceptional d refined

8 It wasn't exactly exciting, but it was certainly ....

a enthralling b absorbing с 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 ...

p.

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

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**Compound adjectives**

**Study and practice**

There a lot of compound adjectives in English. Here are some common ones which

are formed from parts of the body. For example, *heart* gives us **warm-hearted,**

**kind-hearted, hard-hearted etc.**

Look at the list of similar compound adjectives below and guess what they mean.

Then read sentences 1 - 10. Complete each sentence with the appropriate

adjective(s).

**left-handed double-breasted narrow-waisted cold-blooded**

**big-headed pot-bellied red-faced round-shouldered**

**sour-faced cross-eyed knock-kneed slim-hipped**

**light-fingered strong-willed bow-legged empty-handed**

**dark-skinned fair-haired broad-minded right-footed**

1 My boss is terribly ... , walking around *as* if he were holding his salary cheque

between his knees. His wife's quite the opposite: ... , as if she had just got off a

horse.

2 I used to wear ... suits until I decided that one button was far more suitable for ...

people such as myself.

3 My sister is so ... and ... she reminds me of one of those long thin wine bottles.

4 He's Scandinavian, so he's ... and ... , and looks far better in jeans than I do.

5 It looked as if United were going to return home ... until Bradfield scored with an

incredibly powerful... shot from outside the penalty area.

6 Off we go on holiday with visions of returning ... and beautiful, forgetting that we

always come back ... and with peeling backs.

7 Hoskins, if you go on staring at that magazine any longer, you'll go .... Now either

be ..., dear boy, and put it away or give it to me until the end of the lesson.

8 My boss is so ..., always looking as if he knew tomorrow was going to be the end of

the world. And his wife is so ... ; I have to keep a careful eye on my things when

they come round to the house, or they just disappear.

9 Most... tennis players seem to win more easily against right-handers. Talking of

tennis players, aren't those professionals a ... bunch, shouting all the time about

how great they are?

10 A lot of liberal,... people find it difficult to accept that there is such a thing as ...

murder.

**Practice**

1 Complete each sentence with the appropriate word from the list below. Note that

they are all adjectives made from parts of the body, and that *bloody* is a frequently

used and not very rude swear word.

**hairy cheeky bloody leggy handy**

**nosey hearty skinny heady chesty**

1 ... congratulations on your success!

2 I could watch those ... women high jumpers for hours.

3 That sounds like a rather ... cough you've got.

4 The shops are quite ... — only two minutes' walk.

5 No, you can't borrow my girlfriend for the evening! Don't be so ...!

6 It's nothing to do with you what we're doing tonight! Don't be so ...!

7 She's so ... that when she turns sideways, she's almost invisible!

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**Compound adjectives**

8 Did you know he's got a ... chest? Like a doormat, it is!

9 I reckon you'd have to be a ... fool to want to learn this ... stupid language!

10 I feel quite ... after getting all those right. Or perhaps it's the champagne.

Discuss or write the answers to these questions.

1 Which elements of your body - from **split ends** to **toenails** - do you wish were

different in some way?

2 What are the necessary **physical attributes** of the following types of athlete?

Use the phrases: *You have to be I have ...; You need ...; You can't... without ... .*

1 a swimmer

2 a skier

3 a tennis player

4 a footballer

5 a sprinter

3 How important do you think **physical appearance** is for a happy or successful

life?

Write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

1 A description in your diary of how your body felt when you suffered from and slowly

recovered from frost-bite or bad sunburn.

2 Continue this paragraph: 'Suddenly the door opened and the strangest-looking man

I have ever seen seen came into the room. ...'

3 A description from your short story of the people in the waiting room of a marriage

guidance bureau.

Add any other adjectival expressions about the body as you meet them.

**Practice**

Often our five senses don't work as well as they might.

Cover the right column, and then the left, and try to recall the equivalent expression

from the other column.

to be **short-sighted / long-sighted** to be **hard of hearing**

to **go blind** to **go deaf**

to **wear glasses / contact lenses to wear a hearing aid**

to be **as blind as a bat** to be **deaf as a post**

to **read Braille** to **lip-read**

to use **sign language**

to be **colour blind** to be **tone-deaf** (of music)

to visit **an oculist** to go to an **ear specialist**

Look at the list of words formed from the word *sense.* Complete the sentences with an

appropriate word from the list or the word *sense,* which you will use three times.

**sensible sensitive sensation sensational sensual sensuous senseless**

1 What should you say? You'll just have to use your common ... .

2 The news of the scandal caused a ....

3 I've always found the buzzing of bees has a very ... attraction.

4 I think the ... thing to do would be to stop now and get a good night's sleep.

5 In one ... I think you're right, but not completely.

6 Kleindorf's defeat of Real Madrid in the European Cup was ....

7 It's ... trying to argue with him; he never listens to a word anybody says.

8 She's very ... on the subject of divorce, so be careful what you say.

9 I felt a ... of 'deja vu' when I was turned down for the job the second time.

10 The cashier at the bank has incredibly ... hands.

A hundred British people were asked to complete the phrase *a sense of.* These were

the most popular choices. Do they tell you anything about the British?

Complete each sentence 1-9 with an appropriate phrase.

**a sense of humour a sense of duty a sense of power**

**a sense of fairness a sense of adventure a sense of timing**

**a sense of discipline a sense of fun a sense of balance**

**КЛЮЧИ**

Compound **adjectives about the body**

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1 knock-kneed bow-legged 2 double-breasted pot-bellied 3 round-shouldered

narrow-waisted 4 fair-haired slim-hipped 5 empty-handed right-footed

6 dark-skinned red-faced 7 cross-eyed strong-willed 8 sour-faced light-fingered

9 left-handed big-headed 10 broad-minded cold-blooded

**Practice, page 34**

Щ 1 hearty 2 leggy 3 chesty 4 handy 5 cheeky 6 nosey 7 skinny

8 hairy 9 bloody bloody **10** heady

**The senses**

**Practice, page 37**

1 sense 2 sensation 3 sensuous 4 sensible

7 senseless 8 sensitive 9 sense **10** sensual

5 sense 6 sensational

1 sense of power 2 sense of timing 3 sense of humour 4 sense of duty

5 sense of discipline 66 sense of adventure 7 sense of balance 8 sense of

fairness 9 sense of fun

**Cause and effect**

**Reading 1**

Notice some of the ways in which the following single sentence can be added to and

commented on.

I'm going to continue with my English,

**because**

**because of**

**owing to**

**on account of**

**in case**

**in order to**

**so as not to**

**so that**

**whether**

**wherever**

**whatever**

**whichever**

**however**

**regardless**

**even if**

**whenever**

**if**

**providing**

**provided that**

**unless**

**although**

**even though**

**in spite of**

**despite**

**but**

**whereas**

**unlike**

**as opposed to**

**so**

**which**

**considering**

**Practice**

I like the language.

this book.

its importance in the world of business.

what my teachers have told me.

I need it one day.

take Proficiency next year.

forget what I've learnt.

*I* can work in the States one day.

you think it's a good idea or not.

I go.

happens.

country I go to next.

difficult the next stage is.

of my slow progress so far.

I have to give up all my other interests.

I can.

it's possible.

I can find a teacher.

someone agrees to teach me.

you persuade me that Chinese is more useful.

I know I'm not the most gifted linguist.

I'm a very busy person.

the cost of these lessons.

what you've said about my slow progress.

I think I'll give up Russian.

everyone else in the class is giving up.

the others, who are stopping.

my Japanese.

you'll see me again next term.

is a bit silly, I suppose,

I live on a desert island.

What do you think of English now? Which of these statements apply to you? (Notice

how cause and effect are expressed.)

1 A lot of my problems stem from trying to translate from my language.

2 My hesitation in speech is caused by a lack of vocabulary.

3 Some basic errors can be traced back to the way I learnt English at the beginning.

4 My large vocabulary is a direct consequence of knowing two other European

languages.

5 Most of my problems have their roots in grammatical uncertainty.

6 Studying vocabulary has led to a better understanding of how English works.

7 More vocabulary means more fluency.

8 Learning a lot of words can result in confusion.