Creating characters

When describing people in our writing it is easy to use the same adjectives over and over again. This can mean the writing becomes repetitive and descriptions lose their impact. It is important to think carefully about which adjectives to choose.

GETTING STARTED

Check the meaning of the bold adjectives in the sentences below. Then choose a better word from the alternatives given.

ruddy         ungainly          cadaverous                corpulent                    diminutive

dishevelled                        beetling           emaciated                              rotund                        lustre

1. The heavy man weighed 150 kilogrammes. ____________________________
2. After the food, his buttons strained to close over his round stomach. ____________
3. She was very thin after her recent illness. ____________________________
4. His overhanging eyebrows made him look terrifying. ___________________
5. I always look scruffy in my school uniform however hard I try to look smart. ____________
6. The vampire sat up in the coffin, looking pale and gaunt. _________________
7. Her hair has a real shine after she has washed it. _______________________
8. Next to the tallest girl in school, Fiona could be described as small. __________
9. He had a red and healthy-looking complexion. __________________________
10. My older brother is so tall that he looks clumsy when he walks. ______________

MOVING ON

Accurately use the following words in a sentence of your own.

pudgy             svelte             pockmark    aquiline       mottled

1. ______________________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________________________
5. ______________________________________________________________________

How many did you get right? 2 = NOVICE 5 = EXPERT 10 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford School Dictionary and your Oxford Student’s Dictionary for these activities.