

Characterization of Persons

I. The outward appearance of persons

physique (Körperbau, -beschaffenheit) / (bone) **structure** (Knochenbau) / **constitution** (Körperbau in seiner anlagebedingten Gesundheit) / **make-up** (Körperbau als Veranlagung) / **physical condition** (körperliche Verfassung) / **body** / **build** / **stature** (Wuchs) / **figure** (Gestalt, Figur) / **frame** (Gestalt)

1. Parts of the body

man has a **body** / **skin** (Haut) / **backbone** (Rückgrat) / **spine** (Wirbelsäule) - **trunk** (Rumpf) / **chest** (of men) / **breast** (of women) / **back** (Rücken) / a **belly** (coll. Bauch) / a **stomach** (Magen) - **buttocks** (Gesäß, Pobacken) - **limbs** (Glieder) / **extremities** / **joints** (Gelenke) - **shoulders** / **arms** / **armpits** (Achselhöhlen) / an upper arm / a forearm - **hips** / **legs** / **thighs** (Schenkel) / **knees** / shanks (Unterschenkel) / shinbones (Schienbeine) / calves (Waden) / **wrists** (Handgelenke) / **hands** / **fingers** / knuckles (Fingerknochen) / **finger tips** / finger nails - ankles (Fußknochen) / **feet** / heels / **toes**

he is (sturdily ...) built / put together

he is of / has a (sturdy ...) constitution / make-up / build / frame

he is of / has (medium ...) build / stature / height

he is of (strong ...) physique

he is in / has a (good / bad ...) physical condition

2. Some characteristic features of a person's physique

A. Vigour / feebleness

vigour (*Kraft*) / **feebleness** (*Schwache*) to be / see a man of strong / sound / robust ... physique **to see a strong** / VIGOROUS / **stout** (stämmig) / burly (dick, stämmig) / thickset / stocky (stämmig, untersetzt) / **sturdy** (kraftig, stabil) / solid / **strong-boned** / strong-limbed / big-framed / strong-necked man

to see a(n) **athletic** / able-bodied / virile (kräftig) / brawny (kraftig, muskulös) / **muscular** / **sinewy** (sehnig) / **wiry** (drahtig) man a man has vigour / strength / energy / stamina (Widerstandskraft) / **drive** (Energie, Unternehmungsgest) / **verve** (Feuer) **he is an athlete** to be / see a man of infirm / **delicate** (zart) / feeble (kraftlos) / frail (gebrechlich) physique

s. o. is a weak / small-boned ... man

he is a weakling

B. Fatness / thinness

to be / see a(n) **plump** (rundlich, mollig) / well padded (wohlgepolstert) / fat / massive / **paunchy** (dickbauchig) / corpulent / puffy (kurzatmig, korpulent) / obese (fettleibig) man

to **see a man with a paunch**

a man is getting gross / fat...

to **be** / **see a slender** (schlank, schmächtig) / **slim** (dünn) / **thin** / lean / gaunt (hager) / skinny (abgemagert) / scraggy (dürr) / **bony** man

C. Tallness / shortness (height / stature)

to be / see a **tall** / erect / lanky (hoch aufgeschossen, schlaksig) / **big** man

to see a **short** / **small** / stumpy (gedrungen, untersetzt) / little / undersized (winzig) / dwarfish (zwergenhaft) man

D. Health / sickness

to be / see a **healthy** / **strong** man

to see a **sickly** (kränklich) / **sick** / senescent (alternd) / **senile** / decrepit (altersschwach, klapprig) man

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3. Physiognomy

physiognomy / **face** / **countenance** (Gesichtsausdruck) / **complexion** (Gesichtsfarbe, Aussehen) / **looks** (Aussehen) / **features** (Gesichtszüge) / **lines** (Falten) / **facial expression** / **profile**

A. The shape of a person's face

a person has a **full** / rotund / **chubby** (pausbackig) / **fleshy** / plump / heavy-jawed / bloated (aufgedunsen)
face he has a(n) **round** / **oval** / **long** / **large** / **small** face

B. The skin of a person's face

a person has a(n) **smooth** / smooth-skinned / **sleek** (glatt) / cleanshaven / clean face
he has a(n) **unclean** / unwashed / unshaven / bristly (stachlig) / **bearded** face
he has a(n) **lean** (mager) / hollow-cheeked / emaciated / **wrinkled** (faltig, zerknittert) / lined (gefurcht) face

C. the complexion of a person's face

a person looks ... (**pale** ...)
he has a (pale ...) complexion
he has a **youthful** / fresh / florid (blühend) complexion
he has a complexion **radiant** with (strahlend vor) ... (health and happiness ...)
a person has a pale / white / lily-white / pallid (blass, bleich) / **sallow** (fahl) face
he has a **sunburnt** / **tanned** / **bronzed** face
he has a **fair** / **freckled** (sommersprossig) face

D. The facial expression

a person has a **blank face** (ausdruckslos) / **an air of** ... (superiority / importance ... - überlegene / gewichtige Miene) his face bears a ... expression / an expression of ...
he makes a **merry** / gay / **wry** (schief) ... face
his face **lights up** / he beams all over his face (strahlt)
he has / presents / displays (zur Schau tragen) a sorrowful / sad ... countenance
he makes / **pulls a face** (he grimaces)
he pulls his face into a grimace
he puts on / adopts a mask
he shows his true face
his face is distorted (verzerrt)

E. The features / looks of a face

a person is **good-looking** / better-looking than ... / glamorous (bezaubernd schön)
he has **even** (ebenmäßig) / **fine** / handsome (of men: hübsch) / **pretty** (of women: hübsch) / **beautiful** / strongly-marked / proud / **noble** / aristocratic - **ugly** (hässlich) features
he has a good / sharp *profile*

F. The head

a person has a **small** / **big** / **large** / **massive** / well proportioned head
he has a(n) **rounded** / **large** / oblong (langlich) / **pointed** (spitz zulaufend) **SKULL** (Schädel)
a person has **fair** / **blonde** / **ginger** (rötlichgelb) / **red** / **brown** / **dark** / **black** / **greying** / **grey** / **white**
HAIR
his hair is **dyed** (gefärbt) black / blonde ...
his hair is **short** / cropped (gestutzt) / **curly** (kraus) / **long** / **wavy** (wellig) / wispy (wuschelig) / bushy / **tousled** (zerzaust) / untidy / unkempt - straight / **sleek**(ed) (glatt gekammt)
he wears his hair **parted** ... (in the middle / on the right ...) he has a **receding** hairline / **bald** head (Glatze) - she wears a **fringe** (Ponyfrisur) / in a **pony-tail** (Pferdeschwanz)
he has / is growing a **moustache** (Schnurrbart) / beard / goatee (Spitzbart) / whiskers (Backenbart) / he has hollow / greying / grey **temples** (Schlafen)
a person has bright / **gleaming** / **dreamy** / **hollow** / **small** / **big** / **large** **EYES**