French Words for Describing How People Look

KS4 FRENCH Ages 11-14 ⏰ 3 min read

Why Describe People in French?

When you're learning **French**, one of the most useful skills is being able to describe what people look like. Whether you're talking about a friend, a character in a story, or someone you met on holiday, knowing these words helps you paint a picture with your language. It's like building a character description brick by brick.

Hair and Head

In French, **les cheveux** means hair. You might describe someone's hair using words like **blonds** (blonde), **bruns** (brown), **noirs** (black), or **roux** (red). The length matters too: **longs** (long), **courts** (short), or **mi-longs** (shoulder-length). You can also say if hair is **frisés** (curly), **ondulés** (wavy), or **lisses** (straight).

Think of it like describing a character in a video game — you choose each detail, like selecting hair from a menu of options.

Eyes, Face, and Skin

The word for eyes is **les yeux**. Common eye colours in French include **bleus** (blue), **marrons** (brown), **verts** (green), and **noisette** (hazel). For the face, you might describe it as **rond** (round), **carré** (square), or **ovale** (oval). Skin tone can be described as **clair** (fair), **foncé** (dark), or **bronzé** (tanned).

Build and Height

To describe how tall someone is, use **grand** (tall), **petit** (short), or **de taille moyenne** (average height). Their build might be **mince** (slim), **musclé** (muscular), or **rond** (round). You can also say **élancé** (slender) or **costaud** (sturdy).

Think of it like a character creation system in a game where you pick height and body type.

Special Features

Other useful words include **les taches de rousseur** (freckles), **une cicatrice** (a scar), and **une barbe** (a beard) or **une moustache** (a moustache). You can describe something as **distinctif** (distinctive) to mean it really stands out and helps you remember the person.

Age and Overall Impression

Finally, describe someone's age as **jeune** (young), **d'âge moyen** (middle-aged), or **âgé** (elderly). You might sum it all up by saying someone looks **sympathique** (friendly), **sérieux** (serious), or **joyeux** (cheerful).

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