

Describe People in French

Appearance and personality - key phrases, agreement, and a mini conversation

Key phrases

French	Pronunciation	English
grand / grande	grahn / grahnd	tall, big
petit / petite	puh-tee / puh-teet	short, small
beau / belle	boh / bell	handsome / beautiful
joli / jolie	zho-lee	pretty
jeune	zhun	young
gentil / gentille	zhahn-tee / zhahn-teey	kind, nice
sympathique	sam-pah-teek	friendly, likeable
drole	drohl	funny
timide	tee-meed	shy
travailleur / -euse	trah-vah-yur / -yuhz	hard-working
les cheveux bruns	lay shuh-vuh brun	brown hair
les cheveux blonds	lay shuh-vuh blohn	blond hair
les yeux bleus	lay-zyuh bluh	blue eyes
les yeux verts	lay-zyuh vair	green eyes
les yeux marron	lay-zyuh mah-rohn	brown eyes

Example conversation

- A:** Elle est comment, ta soeur ? (What's your sister like?)
B: Elle est petite, elle a les cheveux blonds et les yeux verts.
A: Et sa personnalité ? (And her personality?)
B: Elle est très gentille et un peu timide, mais très drôle !
A: Elle a l'air sympathique ! (She seems friendly!)

Quick tips

- Use **être** for what someone IS (grand, gentil) and **avoir** for what they HAVE (les yeux, les cheveux).
- For a woman, usually add **-e**: grand -> grande. Some are irregular: beau -> belle, gentil -> gentille.
- The color **marron** never changes: always **les yeux marron** (no -s). Same for **orange**.
- A few adjectives go BEFORE the noun: beau, joli, jeune, vieux, grand, petit (une petite fille).

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