

English language words

A Parts of speech

“I have a brown leather chair by the window, and I often sit there in the morning to read the paper.”

In the sentence above, *I* is a **pronoun**; *chair*, *window*, *morning* and *paper* are all **nouns**; *have*, *sit* and *read* are **verbs**; *brown* and *leather* are **adjectives**; *often* is an **adverb**; *by* is a **preposition**; *the* is a **definite article**; *a* is an **indefinite article**; *and* is a **conjunction** or **link word**.



Here are two more examples:

“We saw an elephant at the zoo yesterday.”

Elephant and *zoo* are **nouns**; *saw* is a **verb**; *at* is a **preposition**; *an* is an **indefinite article**; *the* is a **definite article**.

“It was a cold night, so I walked quickly.”

Was and *walked* are **verbs**; *cold* is an **adjective**; *night* is a **noun**; *quickly* is an **adverb**; *so* is a **link word**.

B Grammar

When you are learning vocabulary, you need to know certain things about different words; for example, if nouns are **countable**, e.g. *books*, *apples*, *chairs*; or **uncountable**, e.g. *information* (NOT *informations*), *advice* (NOT *advices*). (See Unit 86.)

With verbs, you need to know if they are **regular**, e.g. *work*, *live*, etc; or **irregular**, e.g. *go/went*, *take/took*. You will also need to learn the grammar of **phrasal verbs**, e.g. *take something off*, *wake up*. (See Units 79–80.)

You also need to learn certain groups of words as **phrases**, e.g. *at the moment*, *never mind*, *see you later*. (See Units 75–6.)

C Word building

In the word *uncomfortable*, *un-* is a **prefix**, and *-able* is a **suffix**. Other common prefixes include *in-* and *dis-*, e.g. *incorrect* and *dislike*. Common suffixes include *-ment* and *-ive*, e.g. *improvement* and *attractive*. (See Units 69–71.)

D Pronunciation

Dictionaries show the pronunciation of a word using **phonemic symbols**, e.g. *book* /'bʊk/, *before* /bɪ'fɔː/, *cinema* /'sɪnəmə/.

Every word has one or more **syllables**, e.g. *book* has one syllable, *before* has two syllables, *cinema* has three syllables.

It is important to know which syllable to **stress**, e.g. on *before* it is the second syllable (be'fore), on *cinema* it is the first syllable ('cinema). The vertical mark ' shows where the stressed syllable begins.

E Punctuation

Every sentence must begin with a **capital letter** and end with a **full stop**. Some sentences have a **comma**, which often shows a **pause** [when you stop reading or speaking for a short time] in a long sentence. Did you also know that a question must end with a **question mark**?

Exercises

4.1 Put the words into the correct columns.

~~noun~~ comma phonemic symbol adverb stress
question mark syllable preposition full stop adjective

parts of speech	punctuation	pronunciation
noun		

4.2 There is one word missing in each line of the text. Where does the missing word go? What could it be? What part of speech is it?

Last year I went to¹ for my holiday. I spent the first week Seville staying with a couple of friends, and then I a train to Barcelona, where I spent another ten days. It is beautiful city and I had a marvellous time. I stayed in a very hotel right in the centre, but I didn't mind spending a lot money because it was a wonderful and it was very convenient. My brother was the person who recommended it; he goes Spain a lot and he stays anywhere else. I may go back next year if have enough time.

1 Spain (noun).....
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

4.3 Answer the questions.

- 1 What type of verb is *break*? an irregular verb.....
- 2 What does a sentence begin with?
- 3 What do you put at the end of every sentence?
- 4 What's missing here.
- 5 What shows you there is a pause in the middle of a long sentence?
- 6 What type of noun is *butter*?
- 7 What type of verb are *pick somebody up*, and *grow up*?
- 8 What are *full stop* and *comma* examples of?
- 9 How do dictionaries show the pronunciation of a word?
- 10 Is the 'a' in *phrase* pronounced the same as *can*, *can't* or *late*?

4.4 Mark the stress on each word. How many syllables are there?

'English 2 informal opposite syllable
decide adjective education pronunciation

4.5 Look at these words and answer the questions.

cheap dangerous kind lucky

- 1 What part of speech are these words? adjectives.....
- 2 Can you change the first two words into adverbs?
- 3 Is the pronunciation of *kind* like *wind* (noun) or *find* (verb)?
- 4 What prefix do you need to form the opposite of the last two words?
- 5 What suffix makes a noun from *kind*?

5 Country, nationality and language

A Who speaks what where?

country	nationality	language
Australia	Australian	English
Brazil	Brazilian	Portuguese
China	Chinese	Mandarin (and Cantonese)
Egypt	Egyptian	Arabic
France	French	French
Germany	German	German
Greece	Greek	Greek
Israel	Israeli	Hebrew
Italy	Italian	Italian
Japan	Japanese	Japanese
(South) Korea	Korean	Korean
Poland	Polish	Polish
Russia	Russian	Russian
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian	Arabic
Spain	Spanish	Spanish
Switzerland	Swiss	Swiss-German, French, Italian
Thailand	Thai	Thai
Turkey	Turkish	Turkish
the UK (United Kingdom)*	British	English
the USA (United States of America)	American	English

*the UK (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)

I come from Argentina, so I'm **Argentinian** and my first language is Spanish. The capital is Buenos Aires, which has a population of more than 10 million people.

Common mistakes

He's English. (NOT He's english); We ate French food. (NOT We ate France food.)

I went to the USA. (NOT I went to USA.) I also visited the UK. (NOT I also visited UK.)

B Parts of the world

The continents in the world are Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, South America, Australia [Australia and New Zealand] and Antarctica.

We also use these terms for different parts of the world:

the Middle East (e.g. United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia), the Far East (e.g. Thailand, Japan), the Caribbean (e.g. Jamaica, Barbados), Scandinavia (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland).

C The people

When we are talking about people from a particular country, we add 's' to nationalities ending in '-i' or '-(i)an', but we need the definite article (the) for most others.

Brazilians/Russians } are ... The British / The French } are ...
 Thais/Israelis } The Swiss / The Japanese }

With both groups we can also use the word 'people', e.g. Brazilian people, British people, etc.

Exercises

5.1 Answer the questions.

- 1 What nationality are people from Poland? Polish
- 2 What nationality are people from Thailand?
- 3 What language is spoken in Spain?
- 4 Where do people speak Hebrew?
- 5 Where do people speak Mandarin?
- 6 What language is spoken in Brazil?
- 7 What language is spoken in Egypt?
- 8 What nationality are people from Germany?
- 9 Write down three countries whose first language is English.
- 10 Write down three languages spoken in Switzerland.

5.2 What parts of the world are these countries in? Write the continent, e.g. Europe, or the area, e.g. the Far East.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Germany <u>Europe</u> | 4 Italy |
| 2 Japan | 5 Jamaica |
| 3 Saudi Arabia | 6 Argentina |

5.3 Underline the main stress in the words in the box, and practise saying them. Use the pronunciation in the index to help you.

Brazilian	Japan	Egyptian	Arabic	Scandinavia
Chinese	Portuguese	Australia	Saudi Arabia	

5.4 Write the answers.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Bangkok is the capital of <u>Thailand</u> . | 4 Moscow is the capital of |
| 2 Ankara is the capital of | 5 Buenos Aires is the capital of |
| 3 Seoul is the capital of | 6 Athens is the capital of |

5.5 Complete the sentences with the name of the people from the country on the right.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1 I've worked a lot with <u>the French</u> . | FRANCE |
| 2 I know lots of | GERMANY |
| 3 We do a lot of business with | JAPAN |
| 4 I used to know a lot of | ISRAEL |
| 5 I have always found very friendly. | BRAZIL |
| 6 People often say that are very reserved. | BRITAIN |
| 7 are very organised. | SWITZERLAND |
| 8 I met a lot of on my trip to Moscow. | RUSSIA |

5.6

Over to you

Answer the questions for you, then ask a friend – if possible, someone from a different country – and write their answers.

- 1 What's your nationality?
- 2 What's the capital city and population of your country?
- 3 What's your first language?
- 4 What other languages do you speak?
- 5 Which countries have you visited?
- 6 Which countries would you like to visit?

A Weather conditions

Notice that it is very common to form adjectives by adding *-y*.

noun	adjective	noun	adjective	verb
fog	foggy	sun	sunny	the sun is shining
cloud	cloudy	wind	windy	the wind is blowing
the cold	cold	snow		it's snowing
ice	icy	rain	wet	it's raining

There are common word partners to describe weather conditions:

It was very cloudy this morning, but the **sun** came out after lunch. [appeared]

The accident happened in **thick fog**. [bad fog]

We had some **heavy rain** at the weekend. [a lot of rain; *opp* light rain]

There was a **strong wind** when we were on the boat. [a lot of wind]

The **wind** has **blown** all the apples off the tree.

It rained in the morning, but the sky was **clear** by lunchtime. [no clouds]

It's been **extremely cold** today. [very; also **extremely hot/windy**]

B Rain and storms

For heavy rain we often use the verb **pour**, e.g. **pour with rain**. For short periods of light or heavy rain, we use the noun **shower**. A storm is heavy rain with strong winds.

It **poured with rain** this afternoon.

Look, it's really **pouring** (**with rain**) now.

We had a couple of **heavy/light showers** this morning.

A period of hot weather sometimes ends with a **thunderstorm**.

First it becomes very **humid** [the air feels very warm and wet], then you hear **thunder** and see **lightning**, and it's followed by heavy rain.



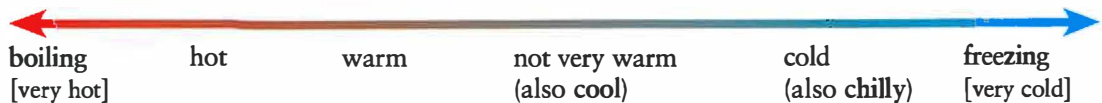
C Temperature*



40 degrees Celsius



10 degrees below zero



* how hot or cold it is

Language help

Cool can either mean slightly cold in a negative way, e.g. *We've had a cool summer*; or slightly cold in a pleasant way, e.g. *The water in the pool was lovely and cool*.

Mild is often used in a positive way to describe weather that is not as cold as usual, e.g. *It's been a mild winter*.

Exercises

7.1 Match the words on the left with the words on the right.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 a sunny | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a with rain |
| 2 heavy | <input type="checkbox"/> | b fog |
| 3 a strong | <input type="checkbox"/> | c sky |
| 4 a clear | <input type="checkbox"/> | d and lightning |
| 5 pour | <input type="checkbox"/> | e day |
| 6 thick | <input type="checkbox"/> | f rain |
| 7 thunder | <input type="checkbox"/> | g wind |

7.2 Write short sentences to describe the weather conditions in each picture.



1 It's foggy.....



3



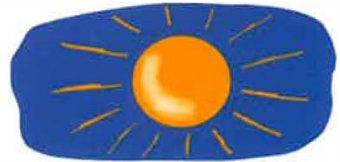
5



2



4



6

7.3 True or false? If a sentence is false, change it to make it true.

- When it's foggy, you need sunglasses. *False. When it's foggy you can't see very well.*
- It's nice to sit outside when it's freezing.
- If you're boiling, you might enjoy a swim.
- A shower is a type of wind.
- If it's chilly, you may want to put on a coat.
- If it's humid, the air will be very dry.
- A mild winter means it is colder than usual.
- If it rains, the road will be wet.

7.4 Complete the sentences.

- We had really thick *fog*..... this morning.
- I don't mind wet weather if it stays quite mild. I just hate the
- We had a heavy this morning, but it only lasted a few minutes.
- It was with rain when we left the house.
- It was minus ten in New York yesterday. It is often below here in winter. It's cold!
- It's getting very humid. We might have a later.
- It was cloudy and grey this morning, but when the sun out it was quite hot.
- What's the today? It feels much colder than yesterday.
- It was hot sitting in the sun, but under the beach umbrella it was nice and

7.5

Over to you

Do you have these weather conditions in your country? When do you have them?

humid weather
thick fog

storms and thunderstorms
temperatures below zero

strong winds
showers

A Describing beauty

Your **appearance** is the way you look, and we sometimes use different words to talk about **beauty** in men and women.

WOMEN can be **attractive** or **good-looking** [nice to look at], and we often use **pretty** [attractive] to describe a girl. We use **beautiful** or **gorgeous** for women who are very attractive.

MEN can be attractive and good-looking, but also **handsome**. If men are very attractive, we can say they are **gorgeous** or very **good-looking**, but not usually **beautiful**.

Tom has become quite **handsome**.

Bella looks **gorgeous** in that dress.

Sammy was very **pretty** when she was younger.

They're a very **good-looking** couple.

Language help

The opposite of beautiful is **ugly**, but it is not very polite to describe someone as ugly; **ordinary** [not special or different] is more polite. It also isn't polite to say that someone is fat; **overweight** is more polite.

B Size

We can talk about a person's **height** [how tall or short they are] and their **weight** [how heavy they are], e.g. *I'm roughly* [about; *syn* approximately] *one metre eighty (tall)*, and *I weigh just under eighty kilograms*. If someone is not tall or short, you can describe them as **medium height**. If a person is very similar to most other people in height and weight, you can say they are **average**.

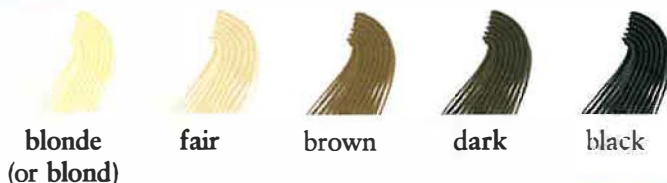
A: How tall is Kiki?

A: Is Marco quite big?

B: Medium height, I'd say.

B: No, about average.

C Hair



straight



wavy



curly

Common mistakes

Remember that 'hair' is uncountable, e.g. She's got straight **hair**. (NOT She's got straight **hairs**.)

Also: She's got long black hair. (NOT She's got a long black hair.)

D Talking about someone's appearance

A: What does Carla's boyfriend look like? [Can you describe his appearance?]

B: He's blond, and quite good-looking.

A: Is he tall?

B: Er, **tallish** [quite tall], but he's got **broad shoulders** [wide; *opp* narrow]. He looks very **athletic** [strong, healthy and often good at sports]. I think he does a lot of sport.

A: Is he quite **smart**? [clean, tidy and stylish]

B: Yeah, he **dresses** quite well. [the clothes he wears are quite nice]

Language help

We can use the suffix **-ish** at the end of some adjectives to mean 'quite', e.g. She's got **longish** hair, and at the end of some numbers to mean 'more or less', e.g. He's **twentyish**.

Exercises

10.1 Complete the sentences.

- 1 She's got straight hair
- 2 Kanya is very good-.....
- 3 Beata's got blonde
- 4 Her brother's got very broad
- 5 That's a nice suit: Jack's very today.
- 6 I would say he was medium
- 7 Alexandra's hair is fair but her brother's is quite

10.2 Find six more pairs of words in the box. Why are they pairs?

attractive height average good-looking weight narrow roughly
tall curly approximately medium wavy broad weigh

Attractive and good-looking are similar in meaning.
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

10.3 Complete the dialogues using words that are similar to the underlined words.

- 1 A: She's good-looking.
B: Yes, very attractive
- 2 A: Marie-José looked beautiful last night.
B: Yes, absolutely
- 3 A: Her boyfriend's quite good-looking.
B: Yes, he is rather
- 4 A: Angelo looks very strong and healthy.
B: Yes, I think he's very
- 5 A: That little girl is attractive, isn't she?
B: Yes, she's very
- 6 A: Danny's getting fat.
B: Yes, he is a bit
- 7 A: Did you think he was a bit ugly?
B: Yes, he was quite
- 8 A: Is she about 25?
B: Yes,
- 9 A: He's just above average height.
B: Yes, he is, isn't he?

10.4

Over to you
Answer the questions.

- 1 How tall are you?
- 2 What's your hair like?
- 3 Think about one of your best friends. What does he/she look like?

11 Describing character

A What are you like?

Describe your character¹

Put a circle round the number that describes you. For example, in the first line 1 = very positive, 3 = not very positive or negative, 5 = very negative.

I think I'm very positive ² .	1	2	3	4	5	I'm quite a negative person.
I'm usually reliable ³ .	1	2	3	4	5	I'm quite unreliable .
I'm quite confident ⁴ .	1	2	3	4	5	I'm quite shy ⁵ .
I'm hard-working ⁶ .	1	2	3	4	5	I'm quite lazy .
I have a good sense of humour ⁷ .	1	2	3	4	5	I'm usually quite serious ⁸ .
I'm usually quite patient ⁹ .	1	2	3	4	5	I'm quite impatient .

¹ what you are like as a person

² believe that good things will happen

³ can be trusted to do what people expect you to do

⁴ feeling sure about yourself and your abilities

⁵ not confident, especially about meeting or talking to new people

⁶ putting a lot of effort into your work and spending a lot of time on it

⁷ the ability to laugh and understand when something is funny

⁸ a serious person is quiet and doesn't laugh very much

⁹ able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when things take a lot of time

Common mistakes

A: What's he like? (NOT How is he like?)

B: He's very nice. (NOT He's like very nice.)

B Opposites

positive	negative
generous [happy to give more money or help than is usual]	mean
honest [an honest person tells the truth]	dishonest
clever, intelligent [able to learn and understand things quickly]	stupid
calm [relaxed and not worried or frightened]	nervous, anxious

Language help

We use **kind** to describe someone who wants to help people a lot, and **nice, friendly** or **pleasant** for someone who is happy to talk to people. The opposites are **unkind, unfriendly** and **unpleasant**.

C Describing a friend

“The first thing I would say about my best friend is that she's very **sensible**¹. I've never known Irma to do anything **silly**², and I know I can always **trust**³ her. She's also very **creative**⁴; she makes things, and she's a very **talented**⁵ artist. I **wish**⁶ I had her talent.”

¹ practical; doesn't do stupid things

² not sensible, a bit stupid

³ be sure that she is honest

⁴ good at thinking of new ideas and using her imagination

⁵ has a natural ability

⁶ I would like to have her talent but I haven't got it.

Exercises

11.1 Find five pairs of opposites and put them into the correct columns.

nice	mean	sensible	lazy	calm	generous
unpleasant	hard-working	silly	nervous		

positive	negative
nice	

11.2 Write the opposites using the correct prefix.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 unkind | 3pleasant | 5honest |
| 2friendly | 4patient | 6reliable |

11.3 Describe the person in the sentences, in one word.

- My brother is in the office from 8 am to 6 pm every day. *hard-working*
- He has never bought me a drink in ten years.
- She often promises to do things but sometimes she forgets.
- My teacher explains things again and never gets angry.
- Agnetta finds it difficult to meet people and talk to strangers.
- Brett is practical and doesn't do anything stupid.
- Our teacher is nice, but he's quiet and he doesn't laugh a lot.
- Anya is very relaxed and doesn't seem to worry about things.
- My boss is really good at using his imagination to think of new ideas.
- Jessica can play several musical instruments.

11.4 Complete the sentences.

- My sister can't wait for anything; she's so *impatient*.
- I get very before exams; I need to try and relax a bit more.
- I I could paint as well as your brother; he's so creative.
- Beata hasn't done a thing since she's been here. Honestly, she's so
- I always have a laugh with my cousin – he's got a great sense of
- My younger sister is able to understand new ideas so quickly; she's very
- If Sarah says she'll do it, then she'll do it. I her completely.
- He'd like to be relaxed and confident, but it's just not part of his
- He failed his exams, but he isn't He just didn't do any work.
- Paola helped me bake some cakes last week; she's very

11.5

Over to you

Complete the quiz on the opposite page for your elf. From all the words on the opposite page, which one would you most like to be, and which is the one you would hate to be? If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

12 Feelings

A How do you feel?

Language help

We use **emotion** and **feeling(s)** for something which someone feels strongly about, e.g. love, hate or anger. **Emotions** are part of our character, e.g. *Tim is a very emotional person.* [shows his feelings easily] **Feeling** is often plural, e.g. *She doesn't like talking about her feelings.*

Well, obviously I'm very **proud**¹ of my son's success, but I'm a bit **disappointed**² that the local paper hasn't shown more interest in the story.

¹ feeling good because you (or someone you know) has done something well

² unhappy because someone or something was not as good as you hoped, or because something did not happen

We were **curious**⁵ to see what all the noise was about, but I felt **anxious**⁶ when I saw how angry the men were, and really **scared**⁷ when they started coming towards us.

⁵ wanting to know or learn about something

⁶ worried

⁷ afraid; *syn* frightened

The politicians seem **confused**³ about what to do, so I'm not **hopeful**⁴ that things will improve.

³ not able to think clearly or understand something

⁴ feeling positive about a future situation

I think Tom ended the relationship because his girlfriend was getting **jealous**⁸, but now he's quite **upset**⁹.

⁸ unhappy and angry because someone you love seems too interested in another person

⁹ unhappy because something unpleasant has happened

Language help

adjective	noun	adjective	noun
proud	pride	disappointed	disappointment
jealous	jealousy	confused	confusion
curious	curiosity	anxious	anxiety

B The effect of the weather on our feelings

Why do people say they feel more **cheerful** [happy] when the sun shines, and **miserable** [unhappy] when it's raining? Why do some people suffer from SAD (seasonal affective disorder), which makes them feel **depressed** [unhappy, often for a long time, and without hope for the future] during long dark winters? Can the weather really affect our **mood** [the way we feel at a particular time], or is it just in our imaginations?

C The effect of colour on our emotions

Colour

can have an **effect** on our mood, but how do specific colours relate to our emotions?

RED can make us feel **energetic**¹, but it can also indicate **anger**². **PINK** though, is softer and more about maternal love and **caring for**³ people. **GREEN** is associated with nature and is good for people suffering from **stress**⁴. **BLUE** is relaxing and helps us to be **creative**⁵, but too much dark blue can make us depressed.

¹ wanting to be busy and doing a lot of things

² being angry

³ looking after someone, especially someone young or old

⁴ feelings of worry caused by difficult situations such as problems at work

⁵ good at thinking of new ideas or using our imagination

Exercises

12.1 Cover the opposite page. Complete the tables.

adjective	noun
angry	anger
jealous	
confused	
	pride

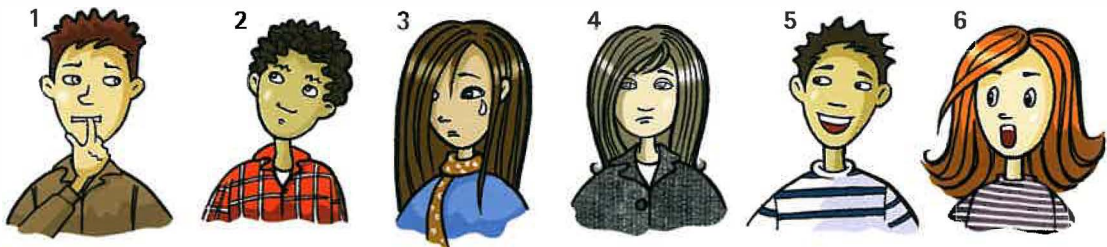
adjective	noun
disappointed	
	curiosity
anxious	
	emotion

12.2 Find the best sentence ending on the right for each of the sentence beginnings on the left.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 He was very anxious when | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a he heard his aunt had died. |
| 2 He was very jealous when | <input type="checkbox"/> | b his father appeared on TV with the Prime Minister. |
| 3 He was very scared when | <input type="checkbox"/> | c his 14-year-old daughter didn't get home until 2 am. |
| 4 He was very proud when | <input type="checkbox"/> | d he saw the man coming towards him with a knife. |
| 5 He was very upset when | <input type="checkbox"/> | e he was ill. |
| 6 He was very miserable when | <input type="checkbox"/> | f his best friend went out with the girl he really liked. |

12.3 Match the words and faces.

anxious ...1... scared cheerful upset confused depressed



12.4 Complete the sentences.

- My aunt had to care..... for her elderly mother for years.
- I can't tell whether Benita is happy or not; she never shows her
- I'm much more in the mornings. By the afternoon I feel tired.
- Weather has a big on the way I feel.
- He's been under a lot of recently because of the amount of work he has to do.
- Brendan's cheerful one minute and miserable the next; his changes all the time.
- It's been a depressing month, but I'm things will get better next month.
- I don't like walking home in the dark. I get very

12.5

Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- Does colour or the weather have an effect on your emotions? How?
- Do you ever suffer from stress? Why?
- Does your mood change a lot from day to day? Why?
- Do you feel more energetic at certain times of the day? Why?