

98 Size and shape

1 Size

Write the adjective beside these four basic nouns:

1. length 3. width
2. height 4. depth

Now match the following questions and answers:

5. How tall is John?
6. How high is Everest?
7. How long is the Channel Tunnel?
8. How wide is the Thames?
9. How deep is your swimming pool?
- a. I think it's a couple of hundred yards.
b. It's 2 metres at the deep end.
c. It's over 20 miles, I think.
d. He's just over 6 foot (nearly 2 metres).
e. It's over eight and a half thousand metres.

We use tall to talk about people and high to talk about mountains. We can use tall or high to talk about buildings.

2 Big and small

Mark these adjectives **B** if they mean big, and **S** if they mean small:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| large . . . | immense . . . |
| little . . . | huge . . . |
| tiny . . . | minute . . . |
| vast . . . | enormous . . . |
| massive . . . | microscopic . . . |

Large is more formal than big and you are more likely to see it in written language. Huge, enormous, immense and vast mean very big and are often used with absolutely – "Their new house is absolutely huge." Vast is usually used to talk about an area of space – "China is a vast country."

Delete the wrong word in these sentences:

- Have you got this shirt in a large / huge size, please?
- There was a huge / vast dog in the park. I was terrified.
- I want to find a bigger flat. The one I'm in now is absolutely little / tiny.
- You can only see them through a microscope. They're absolutely small / minute.

3 Opposite adjectives

Complete the dialogues with these pairs of adjectives:





- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| wide / narrow | low / high |
| short / tall | deep / shallow |
| long / short | thin / thick |

- Do you think Marco's good enough at basketball to become a professional?
> He's probably a bit to be a top player. Some of those guys are head and shoulders bigger than him. They're so they can just drop the ball in the basket.
- It's quite a journey from my house to the college. I have to take two buses.
> Oh really, I'm lucky. It's just a walk across the park for me.
- So, what's your new house like?
> I've got a few problems, actually. On one side of my garden the wall's too and the neighbours' dog keeps jumping into the garden, and on the other side they've just put up a really fence, which blocks out all the light.
- Be careful if you go swimming in that lake – the water's very
> Don't worry. It's quite in the part where we go.
- One thing I noticed when I went to the US is how all the roads are. Where I live all the streets are really – just enough room for two cars to pass.
- I'm freezing!
> I'm not surprised with that jacket on. You should have brought a winter coat.

4 Lines

Use these adjectives to describe the lines below:

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| vertical | diagonal | parallel | horizontal |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|  |  |  |  |

5 Shapes

Match the words with the shapes:

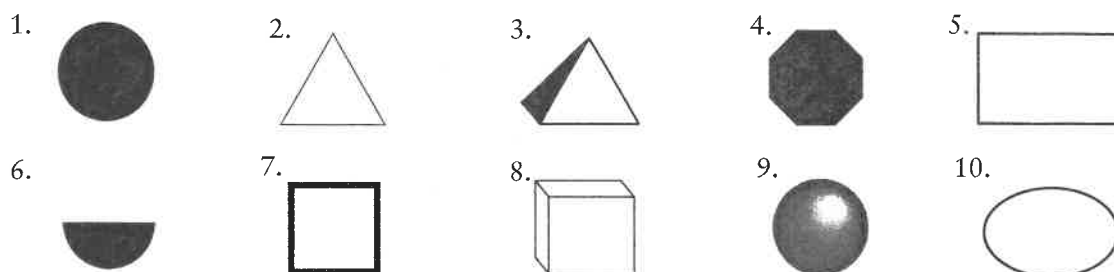
square
semi-circle

rectangle
oval

triangle
pyramid

cube
sphere

circle
octagon



Now match the descriptions with the pictures:

- a. It's round / circular.
- b. It's square.
- c. It's rectangular.
- d. It's triangular.
- e. It's a cube.
- f. It's oval.
- g. It's octagonal.
- h. It's semi-circular.
- i. It's a pyramid.
- j. It's spherical.

6 Describing shapes

Here are different ways to describe the shapes above. Match the description to the shape:

- 1. It's got eight sides.
- 2. All four sides are the same length.
- 3. It's a three-dimensional triangle.
- 4. It's egg-shaped.
- 5. Two of the sides are longer than the other two.
- 6. If you add the three angles together you get 180°.

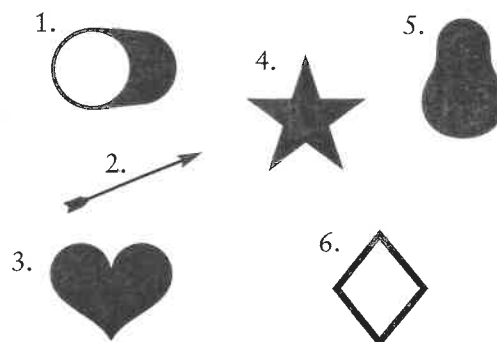
Now use the adjectives and nouns you have learned in the following descriptions of things:

- 7. An A4 sheet of paper is a
- 8. The earth is almost
- 9. The Pentagon is a building with 5
- 10. Trafalgar Square is not actually !
- 11. An egg is not a perfect

7 Other shapes

Use the following words to describe these shapes:

heart-shaped diamond-shaped
pointed cylindrical
star-shaped pear-shaped



Add your own words and expressions