

Build

Reading

Where do you belong below?

he's a **giant** (of a man)
she's an Amazon
extremely tall
tallish
above average height

medium build
he's / she's got a **good figure**
he's / she's **well-built**

stocky
plump
corpulent
built like a barrel*
he's as square / big round as he's tall
obese*
overweight
squat
muscular

petite
thin
skinny*
like a pipe cleaner*
there's nothing of her
like a lamp-post*
puny-looking*
slight and slender
slim

below average height
on the short side
short
tiny
a midget
knee-high to a grasshopper / an ant

Practice

Discuss or write the answers to these questions.

- 1 Which of the above adjectives and phrases would suit a student in your class or a member of your family?
- 2 Do you think your build sometimes determines your character? If so, how?
- 3 What sort of build should gymnasts, footballers and weight-lifters have?
- 4 Which word in each pair of words would you prefer people to use about you? Why?

- 1 skinny / slim
- 2 well- built / corpulent
- 3 overweight / obese
- 4 **all skin and bones / there's more fat on a chip**
- 5 plump / stocky
- 6 short / below average height
- 7 a midget / knee-high to an ant

- Add any other expressions about your or other people's build as you meet them.