

complexion[kəm'plekʃ(ə)n] *n*

1. цвет лица
dark [fair, rosy] complexion - смуглый [светлый, румяный] цвет лица
2. вид, характер
the threatening complexion of the sky - зловещий цвет /вид/ неба
the matter wears a strange complexion - на вид это дело очень странное
the complexion of the war was changed by two great victories - две решающие победы изменили ход войны

complexion

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

com·plex·ion [complexion complexities] *BrE* [kəm'plekʃn] ^u *NAmE*[kəm'plekʃn] ^u **noun**

1. the natural colour and condition of the skin on a person's face
 - a pale/bad complexion
 2. **usually singular** the general character of sth
 - a move which changed the political complexion of the country
- ! **idiom** ↑put a new complexion on something

Word Origin:

Middle English: via Old French from Latin **complexio(n)-** 'combination' (in late Latin 'physical constitution'), from **complectere** 'embrace, comprise'. The term originally denoted physical constitution or temperament determined by the combination of the four bodily humours; sense 1 (late 16th cent.) being a visible sign of this.

Collocations:**Physical appearance**A person may be described as **having** :*Eyes*

(bright) blue/green/(dark/light) brown/hazel **eyes**
 deep-set/sunken/bulging/protruding **eyes**
 small/beady/sparkling/twinkling/(*informal*) shifty **eyes**
 piercing/penetrating/steely **eyes**
 bloodshot/watery/puffy **eyes**
 bushy/thick/dark/raised/arched **eyebrows**
 long/dark/thick/curly/false **eyelashes /lashes**

Face

a flat/bulbous/pointed/sharp/snub **nose**
 a straight/a hooked/a Roman/(*formal*) an **aquiline nose**
 full/thick/thin/pouty **lips**
 dry/chapped/cracked **lips**
 flushed/rosy/red/ruddy/pale **cheeks**
 soft/chubby/sunken **cheeks**
 white/perfect/crooked/protruding **teeth**
 a large/high/broad/wide/sloping **forehead**
 a strong/weak/pointed/double **chin**
 a long/full/bushy/wispy/goatee **beard**
 a long/thin/bushy/droopy/handlebar/pencil **moustache/ (especially US) mustache**

Hair and skin

pale/fair/olive/dark/tanned **skin**
 dry/oily/smooth/rough/leathery/wrinkled **skin**
 a dark/pale/light/sallow/ruddy/olive/swarthy/clear **complexion**
 deep/fine/little/facial **wrinkles**
 blonde/blond/fair/(light/dark) brown/(jet-)black/auburn/red/(*BrE*) ginger/grey **hair**
 straight/curly/wavy/frizzy/spiky **hair**
 thick/thin/fine/bushy/thinning **hair**
 dyed/bleached/soft/silky/dry/greasy/shiny **hair**
 long/short/shoulder-length/cropped **hair**
 a bald/balding/shaved **head**
 a receding **hairline**
 a bald **patch/spot**
 a side/centre/(*US*) center (*BrE*) **parting/ (NAmE) part**

Body

a long/short/thick/slender/(*disapproving*) scrawny **neck**
 broad/narrow/sloping/rounded/hunched **shoulders**
 a bare/broad/muscular/small/large **chest**
 a flat/swollen/bulging **stomach**
 a small/tiny/narrow/slim/slender/28-inch **waist**
 big/wide/narrow/slim **hips**
 a straight/bent/arched/broad/hairy **back**
 thin/slender/muscular **arms**

big/large/small/manicured/calloused/gloved **hands**
 long/short/fat/slender/delicate/bony **fingers**
 long/muscular/hairy/shapely/(*both informal, often disapproving*) skinny/spindly **legs**
 muscular/chubby/(*informal, disapproving*) flabby **thighs**
 big/little/small/dainty/wide/narrow/bare **feet**
 a good/a slim/a slender/an hourglass **figure**
 be of slim/medium/average/large/athletic/stocky **build**

Example Bank:

- Hughes helped change the complexion of Hollywood.
- The joke took on a rather serious complexion when the police became involved
- What you have told us puts a different complexion on the situation.
- Years of heavy drinking had given Alison a florid complexion.
- a change in the political complexion of the council
- a young girl with a rosy complexion
- Her auburn hair and blue eyes, together with a fine complexion, made her extremely attractive.
- a dark/pale/healthy complexion

complexion

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

complexion /kəm'plekʃən/ BrE ^ˈ AmE ^ˈ noun

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Old French; Origin: Medieval Latin complexio, from Latin, 'combination', from complexus; ⇨ ↑complex¹]

1. [countable] the natural colour or appearance of the skin on your face:
 Drinking water is good for the complexion.
 pale/fair/ruddy etc complexion (=a pale, fair, red etc face)
 fair-complexioned/smooth-complexioned etc
 She was fair-complexioned with blonde hair.
2. [singular] the general character or nature of something:
 Crime has risen under governments of every political complexion.
3. put a different/new/fresh complexion on something to make a situation or event seem different:
 This document puts a different complexion on the matter.

COLLOCATIONS

■ **adjectives**

- **pale** (=lacking colour and often not healthy) Her complexion was pale and spotty.
- **fair** (=light in colour) People with fair complexions should use plenty of sunscreen.
- **dark** Bright colours may suit you if your complexion is dark.
- **clear** (=without any spots) Eating fresh fruit and vegetables will help keep your complexion clear.
- **a fresh/healthy complexion** (=healthy and clean) a young man with a fresh complexion
- **a flawless/perfect complexion** (=perfect and with no marks or spots) Foundation is meant to give the illusion of a flawless complexion.
- **a tanned complexion** (=brown because of the sun) He looked distinguished with his greying hair and tanned complexion.
- **a ruddy complexion** (=reddish in colour – used mostly about men) He had black hair and a ruddy complexion.
- **a florid complexion** *literary* (=red in an unpleasant or unhealthy way) He had the florid complexion of a man who drinks too much.
- **an olive complexion** (=the skin colour that is typical of Greek, Italian, Turkish etc people) These colours complement an olive complexion.
- **a glowing/rosy/pink complexion** (=healthy and pink – used about women or children)
- **a sallow complexion** (=slightly yellow) A sallow complexion can be a sign of illness.
- **a swarthy complexion** *literary* (=dark) She had never met anyone with his swarthy complexion.
- **a bad complexion** (=with spots or marks on it)
- **a blotchy complexion** (=with unpleasant red patches of colour in the skin)

complexion

Freakuency Pack

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