

1.6

SPEAKING

Speculating about appearance

I can introduce and justify my speculations about a person's appearance.

- 1 Look at the photos and descriptions. Which person best fits each description? What other words or phrases would you use to describe the people?

- free and easy
- pensive and melancholic
- takes himself/herself too seriously
- aloof and distant
- introspective and thoughtful
- has got all the time in the world
- uptight and anxious
- fun-loving and content

A



B



- 2 **SPEAKING** Compare your answers in Exercise 1 with a partner. Were they similar? Give reasons for your answers if they were different.
- 3 **1.12** Listen to Chris and Jess talking about one of the photos. Which one is Jess describing? Which phrases does she use from Exercise 1?
- 4 **1.12** Read the **SPEAKING FOCUS**. In your notebook, write one word for each gap in the description. Then listen to Jess again and check.

Well, she ¹looks a bit of a mystery. I mean, kind of aloof and distant, not really the free and easy type. I can't really see much of her because of the low light, but I can just make out her facial expression. At first ²?, I thought she looked a bit pensive and melancholic or even as if she might be angry or upset. But, on closer ³?, I'd say, although she looks introspective and thoughtful at the same time she seems happy ... or maybe content is the right word. ⁴?, by the sunset, I'd say she's at the end of a long, relaxing walk on the beach. It's not really her facial expression that makes me think she's content, it's ⁵?, to do with the setting and the way she seems to be lost in herself, like she's got all the time in the world and is deep in thought ... But ⁶?, again, I could be wrong about all of that. I mean, it isn't a very natural shot. It's ⁷?, to say, but, it almost seems a bit staged. I mean she's posing, isn't she? And there's ⁸?, about the angle, as if the photographer wanted to get the lighting just right ...

SPEAKING FOCUS

Offering initial thoughts

When I first saw the photo, ...

At first glance, ...

She/He looks quite + *adjective* / a bit of a + *noun*.

It looks to me as if ...

My initial impression was ...

Justifying your speculations

I'm assuming he's/she's ... because ...

It's more than just his/her ...

It's something to do with ...

There's something about the ...

Judging by the way he's/she's ...

Rethinking your ideas

On closer inspection, I'd say ...

Having said that, he/she may be ...

Mind you/Then again, I could be wrong.

Hedging

It's hard to say, but ...

I can't be certain, but ...

I'm only guessing, but ...

Going purely on appearance, I'd say he/she ...

I could be wrong, but my gut feeling is that ...

- 5 **SPEAKING** In pairs, look again at Photo A and choose the options that you think best describe the person. Justify your speculations with details from the photo.

- 1 She is an actress / a student / an artist.
- 2 She's distant / fun-loving / content and generally pretty uptight / sociable / chatty.
- 3 She enjoys spending time with friends / reading / discussing current affairs.
- 4 She also likes spending time in the countryside / at a spa / at a trendy café and doing yoga / working out / cooking.

- 6 **SPEAKING** In pairs, answer the questions. Use phrases from the **SPEAKING FOCUS** to help you.

- 1 How do you think the man in Photo B is feeling? What makes you think so?
- 2 When do you find it difficult to hide your emotions?
- 3 Tell me about the last time something made you feel quite anxious.