



Difference Between Sex Characteristics and Sex Changes

	 Term	 Sex Characteristics	 Sex Changes
 Meaning		These are the physical features that make males and females different.	These are the changes that happen to boys and girls during puberty.
 When Present		Some are present at birth (primary), others appear at puberty (secondary). Can be Primary (reproductive organs) or Secondary (visible changes).	Happen during puberty (usually between ages 10–18). Can also be Primary (internal) or Secondary (external).
 Type		Related to the body features that show someone is male or female.	Related to how those features develop or change at puberty.
 Related to		Penis, testes (primary); beard, deep voice (secondary).	Testes start producing sperm, voice deepens, muscles grow.
 Example (Boy)		Vagina, ovaries (primary); breasts,	Ovaries start releasing eggs,
 Example			

 Term	 Sex Characteristics	 Sex Changes
(Girl)	hips (secondary).	menstruation begins, hips widen.

In Simple Terms:

-  **Sex characteristics** are the **features** of the body (like breasts, penis, voice).
 -  **Sex changes** are the **processes** that cause those features to **develop or change** — usually during **puberty**.
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Summary:

Sex characteristics = *What you have*

Sex changes = *How those things grow or develop*

By. Tr. Uthuman Abdulmutwalib Musaazi