

Name:

Date:

Descriptive Writing: Where Can It Be Used?



Descriptive paragraphs become much stronger and more clear when you include lots of details, precise language, and a careful choice of words.

You can transform many kinds of regular writing into descriptive writing by:

- *Observing or imagining your environment (the place, people, actions, and objects around you) before you write*
- *Creating a clear image in the reader's mind*
- *Choosing the best words and details for the job*

These activities will help you practise these tips by writing several different kinds of descriptive paragraphs.

Part One: Helping a New Visitor to Your Community

Imagine that a new visitor has come to your community. When you are introduced, you learn that this person has difficulty seeing, and you are asked to guide them.

As you're taking the visitor around, what do you think you would say if they asked you what things looked like? If the visitor asked about the houses, the school, cars, animals... how do you think you would describe them?

Instructions:

1. Pick one object or place that you might see as you walk around with the visitor.
2. On a separate piece of paper, describe this object or place in detail. That way, someone who can't see it with their eyes would be able to see it with their mind.

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Part Two: Descriptive Re-Writing

Try applying what you have learned about descriptive writing to a short story.

Instructions:

On a separate piece of paper, rewrite the story below by adding more details and descriptive writing:

I recall one winter night. I was four. My sister and I were running down the hall and something happened: my sister and I had ran right into each other. Boy! did we cry.

But not only did I cry, my tooth was bleeding. Then it felt funny. Then plop! There it was lying in my hand. So that night I put it under my pillow and in the morning I found something. It was not my tooth - it was two dollars.

So I ran down the hall, like I wasn't supposed to, and showed my mom and dad. They were surprised because when they lost teeth the only thing they got is 25¢.

Part Three: Descriptive Writing On a Nature Walk

You will be going on a nature walk, and you will be writing down details about what you have seen.

The goal is to write a paragraph of descriptive writing that talks about your nature walk.

Instructions:

1. Your teacher will help you choose a place for your nature walk
2. When you go out on your walk, collect details to use in your descriptive paragraph. Use the organizer on the next page to collect details and write notes:

Name:

Date:

Details	What Did You Find?
<i>Colours</i>	
<i>Shapes</i>	
<i>Sizes</i>	
<i>Textures (how things feel)</i>	
<i>Smells</i>	
<i>Sounds</i>	

3. After your nature walk, use the details that you collected to write a descriptive paragraph about your experiences.

Just in case you need some help with figuring out where to start, here are some suggestions:

- Introduce the place that you are describing.
- Engage your reader's sense of sight.
- Describe smells and tastes (if you can).
- Describe how the moment or item feels.
- Describe how your subject sounds.