

DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY WRITING

Definition: It is a type of writing that creates a clear and vivid impression of the topic. Description translates your experience of a person, place or thing into words, often by appealing the physical senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch.

A good description

- ✓ creates a main point (an overall effect, feeling or image) about the topic
- ✓ uses concrete and specific details to support the main point
- ✓ uses details that appeal to the five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch.

Some Important Aspects:

Most of the description of the topic is in the supporting points. A good description uses specific details that appeal to all five senses of the reader through relevant details, prepositions and similes. In descriptive writing, you *show* your readers what you mean, not just *tell* them.

i. Prepositions/Prepositional Phrases:

Prepositional phrases are made up of a **preposition + a noun phrase/a pronoun**.

Prepositional phrases are important in descriptive writing. They show the position, location and direction of objects in space and time. We can also use prepositional phrases to show manner and attitudes.

Position and Location:

The boat slowly sank **with the water level**.

Direction:

The idea was to float the boat **over the fence wall**.

Time:

I wake up **at six in the morning**. She has an exam **on Sunday**.

Manner and Attitudes:

He pulled back **in horror**.

Task 01: Identify PP in the following sentences:

1. The boat settled on dry ground.
PP: *on dry ground*

2. We could walk around the park.
PP: *around the park*
3. In the morning, I will go to the school.
PPs: *In the morning, to the school*

ii. Adding Details:

Details tell what it looks like and how it sounds, feels, smells or tastes. You can use nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs to add details. The more specific the details are the more interesting and effective the writing will be. Clear details allow the readers to build a picture in his or her mind of what is being described.

Task: Compare the general statements below with the specific ones.

General Statements

The crabs were good.

He bought some fruits.

She walked to the door.

He bought some sweet and juicy strawberries.

He bought a vegetable.

She tiptoed to the door/

Sentences with Specific Details

She walked quickly and silently to the door.

The crabs were tender and sweet with a salty taste.

iii. Adding Adjectives

Order of Adjective

Adjectives appear in a particular order within a sentence, according to their function, as shown below:

| Examples | Interesting | Huge | Old | Round | Blue | Mexican | Wooden | Picnic |
|----------|-------------|-------|-----|--------|-------|----------|--------|---------|
| | Boring | Small | New | Square | White | European | Iron | Wedding |

E.g. We put out **huge** plates of **Mexican** food out on the **wooden picnic** table.

My mother had a **beautiful, small, antique, pearl** necklace.

They bought **gold wedding** rings.

Task 02: Re-write the following sentences placing the adjectives in the correct order.

- 1 It was a (metal, new, fantastic) sculpture.
It was a **fantastic, new, metal** sculpture.
- 2 They walked down the (old, elegant, marble) staircase.
They walked down the **elegant, old, marble** staircase.
- 3 The museum has (wooden, entrance, beautiful) doors.
The museum has **beautiful, wooden entrance** doors.
- 4 There were (blue, huge, bright) lights to mark the entrance.
There were **bright, huge, blue** lights to mark the entrance.
- 5 The food was served in (simple, tiny) portions in (small, dinner, modern) plates.
The food was served in **tiny, simple** portions on **modern, small dinner** plates.

iv. Similes:

Descriptive writing may use similes to make something seem more familiar and more creative. Similes make ideas easier to understand and they can also express feelings.

- A simile can be formed by using the preposition *like* + *noun/noun phrase*.
e.g. The stars look like diamonds.
- A simile can also be formed by using the preposition *as* + *noun/noun phrase*.
e.g. He is **as** clever **as** a fox.

Task 03: Match the first half of each sentence with the other to identify appropriate similes.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. The house | a. smelled sweet like honey |
| _____ 2. The ocean | b. is as solid as a rock. |
| _____ 3. The cold wind | c. sparkles like a diamond. |
| _____ 4. Their friendship | d. was as fast as a bullet. |
| _____ 5. The train | e. cut sharply like a knife. |
| _____ 6. The air | f. was as huge as a castle. |

SOLUTION

- 1 **The house** - f. was as huge as a castle
- 2 **The ocean** - c. sparkles like a diamond
- 3 **The cold wind** - e. cut sharply like a knife
- 4 **Their friendship** - b. is as solid as a rock
- 5 **The train** - d. was as fast as a bullet
- 6 **The air** - a. smelled sweet like honey

Descriptive Writing usually describes a person, a place or a thing.

Describing a Person:

Adjectives to use

- interesting, shy, diffident, pushing, overbearing, talented, lonely, sociable, likeable, a pest, intelligent, introvert, extrovert, approachable, unapproachable, businesslike, humble, timid, practical, impractical, a good mixer, a good conversationalist, anti-social, retiring, a sport, a snob, a bore, a know-all, difficult, arrogant, shrewd energetic, conceited, modest, brash, self-confident, lazy, ambitious, easy-going, strict, cunning.

While

describing a person in descriptive writing the following sequence of information will be followed:

1. Physical appearance
2. Personality/character
3. Attitudes/behavior
4. Interests/hobbies/profession
5. Your personal impression/opinion

Describing a Place

When describing places in descriptive writing, the following sequence of information will be followed.

1. Location

Adjectives for Places

- remote, imposing, superb, easily accessible,

2. Physical characteristics/Atmosphere
3. Special Attractions
4. The culture of the people in the place
5. Historical details
6. Your personal expressions and opinions

Describing Objects

When describing objects you may want to include:

Colour

Shape

Size

Texture

Task:

Note: Write an essay on any ONE of the following topics in class and essays on rest of the three topics will be placed in your portfolio.

1. Give a tour of one room in your house by describing the most important objects in that room.
2. Choose your favourite food: then, write a description of it that includes the way it looks, smells and tastes.
3. Describe one of your favorite outfits.
4. Describe what the first house on the moon would look like.

Essay 1: A Tour of One Room in My House

When you walk into my house, the living room is the first space that greets you. Located at the center of the house, it connects to both the kitchen and the hallway, making it a central and frequently used area. Its large windows open up to the garden outside, filling the space with natural light throughout the day, which enhances its welcoming atmosphere.

The living room is designed for both comfort and elegance. The walls, painted a soft cream color, create a warm and cozy ambiance that makes the room feel like a retreat. A plush beige carpet covers the wooden floor, blending perfectly with the overall décor. A glass coffee table sits at the center, surrounded by a comfortable, oversized sofa and two matching armchairs, offering ample seating for family and guests alike.

Adding to its charm is the large wooden bookshelf, which spans the entire wall and serves as one of the room's highlights. Filled with books of various genres, it immediately catches the eye of anyone who enters. Above the bookshelf, a beautiful landscape painting further enhances the

room's aesthetic appeal. The fireplace, both functional and decorative, adds a warm and inviting touch, especially on cold winter nights.

Moreover, the room reflects our family's love for togetherness and creativity. The furniture is arranged to encourage conversation and bonding. On the coffee table, you'll often find a bowl of fresh fruit or a few magazines to entertain guests. In the corner, a sleek floor lamp casts a soft glow, making the space perfect for relaxing with a book or spending quality time with loved ones.

For me, the living room is not just a physical space but a sanctuary where I feel at peace. Whether I'm curled up on the sofa with a novel, hosting friends, or simply enjoying the quiet company of my family, this room holds countless cherished memories. Its cozy yet elegant design makes it my favorite spot in the house.

Essay 2: My Favorite Food

My favorite food, biryani, is a feast for the eyes before it ever touches your tongue. The rice, with its golden-yellow, white, and orange hues, creates a stunning visual contrast that is immediately appealing. Mixed in are pieces of chicken or meat marinated in rich spices, giving them an earthy tone. Garnishes of crispy fried onions, fresh coriander, and slices of boiled egg complete the dish, making it look as delicious as it tastes.

The aroma of biryani is just as captivating. As soon as it is served, the fragrant blend of saffron, cumin, cardamom, and cinnamon fills the air, making it impossible to resist. The spices create a warm and inviting scent that lingers, heightening the anticipation of the first bite.

When you taste biryani, it is an explosion of flavor in every bite. The rice is perfectly cooked, fluffy, and infused with the richness of the spices, while the tender meat is juicy and full of flavor. The slight spiciness is balanced by the tangy raita served on the side, which provides a refreshing contrast to the heat of the dish.

The texture of biryani is equally delightful. The soft, steamed rice melts in your mouth, while the tender meat provides a satisfying bite. Meanwhile, the crispy fried onions on top add an unexpected crunch, and the creamy raita smooths out the bold spices, creating a perfectly balanced meal.

For me, biryani is not just a dish but a celebration of culture, flavor, and tradition. Every time I eat it, I am reminded of family gatherings, festivals, and special occasions. It's a food that brings people together, and its comforting taste always leaves me feeling happy and satisfied.

Essay 3: My Favorite Outfit

One of my favorite outfits is a long, flowing chiffon dress in a rich royal blue color. The dress, with its fitted bodice and wide, flared skirt, drapes elegantly and feels perfect for any formal occasion. Its intricate silver embroidery along the neckline adds just the right amount of sparkle, while the sheer sleeves give it an ethereal, graceful look.

What makes this dress particularly special is how comfortable it feels to wear. The soft, lightweight fabric flows effortlessly, making it easy to move in while maintaining an air of sophistication. It reflects my personality—elegant yet practical—allowing me to feel both confident and at ease.

I often wear this dress to formal events such as weddings or dinner parties. On such occasions, the dress transforms the way I carry myself, making me feel more poised and graceful. The compliments I receive while wearing it only add to my sense of confidence, reinforcing why it is my favorite.

To complete the outfit, I usually pair the dress with silver drop earrings and matching heels. A small silver clutch adds a touch of elegance, while a thin silver belt around the waist accentuates the fitted silhouette. Together, these accessories enhance the beauty of the dress without overpowering its simplicity.

Every time I wear this dress, I am reminded of how special it makes me feel. It is more than just an outfit—it is a symbol of elegance and confidence. Whether I'm attending a formal event or simply admiring it in my wardrobe, this dress holds a unique place in my heart.