



A [descriptive essay](#) is a type of essay in which a writer describes a specific subject in detail. The writer takes help from vivid language to paint a picture in the reader's mind by engaging the human senses. Whether you are writing about a person or an event, use strong adjectives and adverbs to present sensory details.

Whether you are writing about a person or an event; you should read essay examples to learn how to organize the details.

This blog discusses the elements of a good descriptive essay through examples. Read further to learn how to write a descriptive essay while presenting a real mental picture.

Table of Contents

Descriptive Essay Examples

- How to Write a Descriptive Essay - Example

- Subjective Descriptive Essay Example

- Personal Descriptive Essay Example

- Descriptive Essay Example About A Person

- Descriptive Essay Example About A Place

detailed description of the subject.

Descriptive Essay Examples

To understand descriptive writing, good and handy descriptive essay samples work the best. It is a fact that we learn better with examples. This is why we have added some amazing examples of a descriptive essay.

These samples will help you understand the dos and don'ts of a good descriptive essay. Move forward and go through the writing samples below.

How to Write a Descriptive Essay - Example

Writing Handout E-7: Descriptive Essay

Structuring a Descriptive Essay

A descriptive essay simply describes something or someone by appealing to the reader's senses: sight, sound, touch, smell and taste. Here are the basic steps to writing an effective descriptive essay:

1. Select a subject

Observation is the key to writing a good description. For example, if you are writing about a place, go there and take notes on the sights, sounds, and smells. A descriptive essay paints a picture for the reader, using descriptive devices and the senses. Create a thesis statement that informs the reader who or what you are describing. Examples: "The wooden roller coaster in Coney Island is a work of art." "My bedroom is an ocean sanctuary."

2. Select dominant details

Select only the details that support the dominant impression (your thesis statement).

3. Organize details

The paragraphs in a descriptive essay can be structured spatially (from top to bottom or from near to far) or chronologically (time order) or from general to specific. Descriptive essays can also use other patterns of organization such as narrative or exemplification.

4. Use descriptive words

Do not use vague words or generalities (such as good, nice, bad, or beautiful). Be specific and use sensory, descriptive words (adjectives). For example:

I ate a good dinner. OR I devoured a steaming hot, cheese-filled pepperoni pizza for dinner.

Provide sensory details:

- Smells that are in the air (the aroma of freshly brewed coffee)
- Sounds (traffic, honking horns)
- Sights ("The sun scattered tiny diamonds across dew-covered grass as it peeked out from beyond the horizon.")
- Touch ("The texture of the adobe hut's walls resembled coarse sandpaper.")
- Taste: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, tart ("Giant goose bumps formed on my tongue when I accidentally bit into a sliver of lemon.")

5. Draw a logical conclusion

The conclusion may also use descriptive words; however, make certain the conclusion is logical and relevant.

Miami Beach

Descriptive Essay by Jessica Turner

It is spring break, in the middle of March, my sophomore year. The salty, floating breeze of Miami's coast is enough to make my knees go weak. I look into the cloudless, cerulean blue sky and see the perfection of life; in the distance, rolling clear-blue waves crash into each other with such force as that of football players. I squint in the distance of the progressing whitecaps and come upon a floating yacht.

Focusing my attention to the beach, I observe middle-aged people resting on beach towels, children creating sandcastles or frolicking in the ocean, and young couples holding hands while walking along the shoreline. I close my eyes and take in all of my surroundings and run my fingers slowly and care freely through my shoulder-length, brown hair as I take in the smell of the salty, evening air that tingles my nostrils. I feel like a seagull, drifting endlessly in the wind without a care in the world, comforted by the resonance of the rolling waves, distant voices, and laughter of people nearby.

"Let's go in the ocean," a young girl says.

"It's so hot out!" an old woman yells.

Feeling the left-over warmth of the mid-afternoon day, I let myself absorb the blistering rays of the sun, while opening my mouth to the bitterness of the sticky evening air. I am taken in by the soothing, relaxing, peaceful atmosphere. I stroll along, and the grainy, slick, brown sugar sand pulls my bare feet under and leaves a perfect imprint. Comforted by the sounds of the ocean, the rhythmic pounding of the waves represses all of my worries; I become enveloped by everything around me.

Personal Descriptive Essay Example

Example Number 1: Why Moving North is The Best Decision of my Life

Moving up to our north cabin and spending time there had always been something that I enjoyed and looked up to. It was a nice, beautiful, and serene place. It offered a lot in terms of peace and serenity that you will not find in cities.

We used to look forward to our summer vacations. So that we can go up north and experience things that we cannot do in the city. Even though the time has changed and things are not as they used to be, the memory is still fresh.

The atmosphere up north was quite different than in the city. When in the cabin, I used to marvel at how different the atmosphere and life here is than the city. Life in the city is full of noise and tension. You have to get up for work, and the noise of traffic would never let you relax and enjoy nature.

Only if you are lucky to have it around. Things up north were different, you can enjoy the sunshine and greenery, and there is no hustle-bustle. The air was fresh, healthy, and clean. The nights are quiet, and you can hear the animals coming out to hunt for food.

Cities are filled with polluted air. This abundance of polluted air is mainly due to the heavy traffic and factories. The air is thick due to smoke, smog, and other types of air contaminators that no one wants to breathe in. Getting clean air in a city is next to impossible.

Unlikely, the air in up north is fresh and clean. There is a big difference that you will notice between the air that you will find up north. The smell is fresh, and you cannot help but just breathe in it constantly. It cleansed the lungs and filled me with freshness and a sense of cleanliness.

Now that things have changed and those experiences have become memories, I made a decision. A decision of moving up north and raising my family there. Moving here, I have the satisfaction that my family has a clean and healthy environment.

Clean air to breathe in and safe surroundings. I believe that this is the best decision of my life. And, I am happy that my kids will have the same experiences as I had as a kid.

Descriptive Essay Example About A Person

Example Number 2: Dalai Lama: A Powerful and Charismatic Personality

The 14th Dalai Lama, born Lhamo Thondup, is probably one of the most interesting and inspiring personalities alive. Originally from China, the reigning Dalai Lama follows the new school of Tibetan Buddhism.

He is influenced by a number of renowned people, including Mahatma Gandhi and Gautama Buddha. His endeavors to uplift and sustain his culture, religion, and identity are phenomenal. Besides, he is also quite famous for his peaceful and joyful appearance. Also, his humanitarian efforts are difficult to neglect or overlook.

The Dalai Lama was born in 1935. He was from a family of poor farmers and belonged to the Tibetan province of Amdo, Taktser. In 1959, he fled to India due to the Tibetan revolt. And in India, he refused to accept the People's Republic of China and formed an individual Tibetan government.

compassion as the main source of life and his teachings.

His book, The Art of Happiness, explains the pillars of happiness and how one could train its mind to achieve it. He is always working to communicate his ideas and transform the world around him. Following his teachings, many people have successfully transformed their lives.

Many of what Dalai Lama preaches and practices are the product of the ancient Buddhist teachings. He has spent a lifetime learning its philosophy and meditation methods and preaching it to promote peace throughout the world. One of the main features of his teachings and practices is non-violence towards everyone.

Despite being so down to earth and leading a simple life, he is not as simple. His life is complicated and a great source of encouragement for many of his followers. He is a political figure and is actively involved in the Tibetan government. He is well-known for supporting the rights of the Tibetan community and spreading the message of peace, harmony, and patience.

The 14th Dalai Lama has an extremely impressive and strong personality. He has proved himself to be the Dalai Lama's, Tibetan Buddhist leader, reincarnation through his actions. One that shines through and serves as a source of guidance and encouragement for his leaders. Whatever he teaches, he practices it himself, which makes his teachings so persuasive and strong.

Descriptive Essay Example About A Place

Examples of Descriptive Essays

Descriptive essays about a place

Descriptive writing about a place should transport the reader to the location you are writing about. You do not just tell the readers where that place is or what's there—your words should make the readers **feel** as if they are really in, or really want to visit, that place you are talking about.

As much as possible, you should guide your readers to the place you are talking about through the effective and creative use of words. Using strong verbs and interesting nouns helps a lot in writing a descriptive paragraph about a place. Try to avoid using too many adjectives or adverbs. Do **not** use abstract words: cool, tight, awesome, etc.

Good Descriptive Essay Example

Sample Essay of Description

The prompt to read this essay appears on p. 149 of *Acting on Words*.

The fact that Lenny Halfe wrote this in limited time as part of an examination, in one quick draft from a simple outline, is testimony that vivid description lives in the mind. Study questions follow the essay.

My Dream Home Lenny Halfe

I was raised in the confines of a beautiful home (my stepfather is a carpenter). My parents were not wealthy by any means, but they did manage to keep our house looking sharp. I feel fortunate and blessed to have grown up in such a home.

Today, I am an "apartment rat." I am twenty-nine years old and I have been living in one rental apartment or another for the past seven years. When I moved into my first apartment, I thought it was the coolest thing ever; I felt so independent, so grown up. Only after seven years, a marriage, and one child later do I realize that I want a house of my own. I want privacy. I want a permanent dwelling with a yard where I can raise my son and teach him how to play hockey or something. Anything.

I began thinking about getting my own house shortly after my son was born, and I have thought about it many times since. My dream house would be located in the country, but not too far from a large town or a city. It would be decorated by large pine trees on one side and small willows on the other with a large, open front lawn.

The house itself would be fairly simple, but not small. It would have a main floor and a basement and would measure fifty feet long by thirty feet wide. The front door would have to be facing south and have a large, slightly elevated balcony. The back door would thus face north, would function as the "main" door, and would have a small deck to greet visitors.

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Descriptive Essay Samples

Descriptive: Visit to the Dentist's Office

I push the door open. The bell tinkles, with a soft but shrill ring. A wave of rubber gloves and disinfectant masked with cheap air freshener washes over me. Chairs are cluttered in the waiting room of the dentists. Clusters of magazines lie on the scratched wood of the coffee tables, shiny bright plastic screaming out logos and slogans. A **little** way forward from where I stand is a desk. A smiling receptionist sits there. She seems to have been expecting me somehow, as she indicates to the couches and chairs.

A few nervous patients are already there. They try to avert their eyes from the closed, threatening doors leading to the dental surgery rooms, where an ominous high pitched whirring sound is coming from. Occasionally, I hear a muffled thud, or yell. One by one, the receptionist calls out the patients name; "Baker, John!" or, "Higgins, Samantha!"

Plastered on the walls are dramatic "Before/After" photos. They show yellow teeth, set crookedly in red raw gums becoming brilliantly white and straight. The walls are painted a stark, clinical white, however photographs of people with toothy grins beam down at me, from newspaper clippings over the years. It must be my imagination, but already I can taste the slightly stale, bubblegum flavoured gloves, the cool hard metal of the examining probe, and the chink clink it makes when it sometimes collides with my teeth. I can feel the vinyl of the reclining chairs, which are covered in plastic, and also which clammy legs have a habit to stick to. In my mind I see the perfect teeth of my dentist, an ideal advertisement for his clinic.

A sudden tapping of high- heeled shoes from the corridor awakens me from my day dreaming. I look up. My pulse quickens, and my hands sweat. I swallow the lump in my throat that has accumulated somehow. Blood is pounding through my head, but even that cannot block out the dreaded words that I hear next; "Barron, Cissie, Doctor Lush will see you now."

Narrative Descriptive Essay Example

Narrative/Descriptive Sample Essay

Where the Danger Is

The weather was cold and gray as usual at this time of year. The trees were all leafless, with fall now just a memory. Christmas was just a few weeks away, and all the kids were looking forward to staying home from school for a few weeks and to the “big payoff” on Christmas morning. Not having to go to school was good, but usually by the time vacation was over, going to school was a big relief. Back to the friends to compare “loot” from Christmas and, to reestablish those fragile ties that hold kids together. At school, students were praised for doing good work, not belittled for each and every mistake. No one there was fighting, and being too loud was against the rules. Right now, the world outside of home was more safe and structured, not chaotic, scary and loud. Even when bad things did happen, it was always far away and nothing to be too concerned about. With Dad often having too much to drink, and Mom just mad at everyone all the time, being home was not usually a very pleasant experience.

Playing outside in the woods or at a friend’s house was the norm for three of us kids. We knew everyone that lived on our road, and except for the cranky old people who lived at the bottom of the hill, everyone was nice to us. In a small rural community, the only thing to be feared at that time of year was crashing on a sled or frost bite from staying out too long. Unless something like that happened, the only rule was to be home before dark.

But that weekend morning was different. We were all home, and the day was starting off rather quietly. None of the kids were arguing, no dogs were barking, and Mom and Dad were actually talking, not shouting or sniping at each other. Dad was sitting at his spot at the dining room table, and Mom was in the kitchen starting breakfast. Usually sitting along the table with

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Descriptive Essay Example for Middle School

Descriptive Essay Sample

Neither Here Nor There

My porch. I loved sitting on mild, sunny, fall days, propped in the weathered porch swing, listening to the breeze rustle the leaves of the box elder trees that lined across the front yard. The trees wearing brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold decorated the landscape and I'd watch families of squirrels battle one another working tirelessly to gather acorns from the oak trees in our neighbor's pasture across the gravel lane. Our house, the first down an auburn gravel road peppered with white stones that fill the soil in that area, known as Stone County. From my swing was a 180-degree view of forest, pastureland, and a strip of the highway that runs through a desolate town. Ancient oaks trees lined the field across the asphalt and vast golden fields encased by tarnished sagging barb wired fence lay somberly on either side of our gravel lane. A neighbor's house sat to the east of us, like a watch guard looking out over their land, crowned with a bright red roof.

The breeze passes through like a visiting friend bringing up warm Southern air, but begins to shift as fall and winter collide carrying the fierce and bitter cold. The sound of the leaves rustling through the trees is a dominate one, until the grazing cattle make their way across the beige pasture sheared of its tall hay. The field spread out behind a three-tiered white picket fence separating it from the dying grass across the front of the yard. Sixty head of cattle, a mix of tan, black, and my favorites, the black ones wearing a strip of white paint across their faces, routinely made their way to that section in the early mornings and later in the evenings. Since its fall, most have swollen bellies getting ready to birth the late season's calves. I would hear the "girls" tear the remaining fescue from the ground chewing it as though I was standing in the pasture with them. The smell of fresh-cut harvested hay lingered in the balmy air. The barn

Descriptive Essay Example for High School

Descriptive Essay- The Earthquake

It was May 12 2008. Glancing through the window, it was a perfect clear sky. I caught a glimpse of sunlight shining through the valleys, signaling the rooster to crow a warm 'good morning' to us. Hurriedly, I strode to the door and left home for school without bidding my mum goodbye.

It was stifling inside the classroom where I was feeling drowsy when I was having lessons. Outside, the sun was boiling, shooting strong rays onto our skin. With the yummy lunch being digested in my stomach, I was all in a daze until the pile of books which were originally settled in the middle of the teachers' desk created a loud bang as they slipped to the floor. Abruptly, I was awoken and alarmed. I looked blankly into my 'neighbors' eyes, questioning about the abnormality inverbally. Within a second, my legs trembled with the throbbing ground. The shock spiraled up my spine, causing absolute dizziness and pain in my head. My eyes followed the thrumming noise from the ceiling. I quickly spotted a line appearing and moving across a big piece of concrete which I knew was going to crack down in any second. Hastily, my numb legs got back the senses. I stood up despite the appalling dizziness ruling over my head and struggled for a way to leave.

Luckily, the windows were just next to me. After catching a good grasp of the window frame, I inhaled a deep breath and shut my eyes so tight that my only exposed sense of hearing focused my whole self to my pounding heart beat. Without another second of thought, I jumped through the window and fell onto the ground. The feeling outside was no better than in the classroom. As soon as I was able to balance myself on the shaking ground as if it was a beating drum in a vigorous tempo, a surge of horror ran through my veins to reach my entire body. The school building behind me was about to collapse. Trees were uprooted and toppled onto the land, smashing against one another's boughs. Furthermore, boulders were rumbling down the hills with a terrifying speed. Realizing that there was not a sanctuary in sight, I blindly followed the crowd and ran for my life.

Descriptive Essay Example for University

Sample Essay (800 words)

For the assignment question and analysis, see [Sample essay 1](#).

Education means considerably more than just teaching a student to read, write, and manipulate numbers. Computers, the Internet, and advanced electronic devices are becoming essential in everyday life and have changed the way information is gathered. How this new technology is utilized in the curriculum and managed by teachers will have an important role to play in widening the resource and knowledge base for all students.

Technology affects the way teachers teach and students learn. To make the best use of information technology (IT), schools need a workable plan to fully integrate it into all aspects of the curriculum so students are taught how, why, and when to use technology to further enhance their learning.

If a school does not have a clear plan of how and why it wishes to implement IT, then it runs the risk of wasting money. In schools today, nearly all classrooms have access to a computer. However, many schools mistake this as incorporating information technology into the curriculum. School staff need to research what IT is available and what would best serve the school's purpose, not simply purchase the latest equipment. There should be a policy stating how IT is going to assist pupils' development and what teachers want pupils to achieve (Reksten, 2000). Staff members need to be clear about what they want IT to do for them before they can start incorporating it into their lessons.

The only way information technology is going to be useful to schools is if all staff members are well-informed and fully supported. It is the principal's responsibility, and should be part of the school's plan, to ensure that all staff are consulted about the changes, and that the change is carefully organised. Some teachers may be resistant, especially if they have not had much experience with computers, so training teachers is essential in implementing IT into the school curriculum. Staff members must feel involved in the process of acquiring technology, and in learning how to operate it, in order for them to increase their confidence in using IT as a curriculum tool. Teachers are only going to be able to incorporate IT into their lessons if they are competent users themselves (Reksten, 2000).

In addition, teachers need to be aware that IT within the classroom is extremely flexible, but that they need to plan what purpose IT serves in each lesson. The skills a child learns are the

Comment [de1]: Structure: Introductions

The essay begins with a general lead into the broad topic by indicating the inadequacy of traditional teaching alone. It sets up a problem that the essay will solve. See [essay introduction](#).

Comment [de2]: Format: Spacing

Essays are usually double-spaced or 1.5-line spaced. See [formatting and layout](#).

Comment [de3]: Structure: Introductions

The topic is narrowed by affirming the significance of IT for teachers and students.

Comment [de4]: Structure: Introductions

The final sentence is the thesis statement. Notice how the beginning of the sentence is constructed to answer the essay question. It uses keywords from the question: "best use", "information technology", and "schools". See [essay thesis statement](#).

Comment [de5]: Format: Abbreviations

"Information technology" is followed by its abbreviated form in brackets: "(IT)". Now that it has been defined, the abbreviation can be used elsewhere in the essay.

Comment [de6]: Structure: Body paragraphs

The first sentence of this paragraph is the topic sentence. It signals that the paragraph is about how schools need a clear plan for implementing IT. This point follows up on the first point made in the thesis statement: schools need a workable plan. See [essay body paragraphs](#).

Comment [de7]: Structure: Body paragraphs

This statement moves into specifics; it details particular actions that a school can do to develop an IT plan. See [essay body paragraphs](#).

Comment [de8]: Referencing: In-text citation


This in-text citation indicates that the idea presented in this sentence is taken from an outside source. The in-text citation gives the surname of the author (Reksten) and the year the source was published (2000). This citation uses APA style. See [APA in-text citation](#).

Comment [de9]: Structure: Body paragraphs

The final sentence of the paragraph summarizes and restates the idea introduced at the start of the paragraph.

Comment [de10]: Referencing: Paraphrasing

The idea in this sentence is taken from an outside source, as indicated by the in-text citation. The exact wording of the source has not been used, so this is a paraphrase. See [paraphrasing and summarizing](#).


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Tips to Write a Good Descriptive Essay

Writing a good descriptive essay is both a difficult and easy task. Here we have listed some useful descriptive writing tips that will make your writing process easy and simple.

- **Choose the Topic:** Choosing a topic to write your essay is the very first step in any essay writing process. Make a list of the [descriptive essay topics](#) that you like and choose one from them.
- **Preplanning:** Before you start writing, plan your essay, and write all the essential details. Please do not think that you will remember it just because you know something; it does not happen this way. Write down all the details and assemble them all in one place.
- **Create an Outline:** Creating the [descriptive essay outline](#) before starting the essay will keep you focused on the essay topic. Include what you will add to each of the sections. Divide it into the introductory paragraph, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion.
- **Edit and Revise:** No writing process is complete without thorough editing and proofreading. Spelling and grammar checking, and checking the essay for plagiarism are the main steps before the final submission of the essay.

[\(back to top\)](#)

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