

Descriptive Writing Part II

Grade 4

Exercise 1: Describing a Person

Choose one of these people and write a descriptive paragraph (8-10 sentences):

Option A: Your best friend

Option B: A kind elderly neighbor

Option C: A strict but fair teacher

Remember to include:

- What they look like (at least 3 physical features)
- How they move or behave (at least 2 actions)
- At least one comparison (simile or metaphor)
- A small, unique detail that makes them special
- How they make you or others feel

Challenge: Try to appeal to at least 3 different senses!

Exercise 2: Describing a Place

Write two contrasting descriptions of the same place at different times. Each description should be 6-8 sentences.

Choose one location:

- Your school playground
- A park near your house
- Your classroom

Describe it:

1. **First:** During a busy, exciting time (recess, festival, celebration)
2. **Second:** During a quiet, empty time (early morning, late evening, holiday)

Your descriptions should:

- Create different moods for each time
- Include specific sounds, smells, and sights
- Use strong adjectives and action words
- Help the reader feel the difference between the two times

Exercise 3: Show, Don't Tell Challenge

Rewrite these "telling" sentences into "showing" descriptions (3-4 sentences each):

1. **The boy was excited about his birthday.**
 - *Transform this into a description that shows his excitement through his actions, expressions, and behavior.*
2. **The abandoned building was creepy.**
 - *Show why it's creepy by describing what you see, hear, and feel—without using the word "creepy."*
3. **The garden was beautiful.**
 - *Paint a picture of the garden using specific details about colors, flowers, smells, and sounds—without using the word "beautiful."*
4. **My grandmother is kind.**
 - *Show her kindness through a specific action or behavior—without using the word "kind."*

Bonus Challenge: After writing each description, ask a family member or classmate to read it and tell you what emotion or impression they get. Did you successfully "show" instead of "tell"?

Quick Reference: Power Words for Description

For Movement:

dart, lumber, glide, shuffle, bound, trudge, tiptoe, march, swagger, creep

For Sounds:

whisper, roar, hum, screech, patter, crackle, boom, tinkle, murmur, clang

For Appearance:

gleaming, shabby, towering, delicate, massive, dainty, worn, pristine, weathered, radiant

For Texture:

velvety, rough, slick, bumpy, silky, gritty, smooth, prickly, fuzzy, coarse

For Mood:

cheerful, gloomy, mysterious, welcoming, eerie, bustling, serene, chaotic, peaceful, ominous