ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Descriptive writing

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you write so a reader can picture what you describe. A place in a story feels real when you show what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like, not just when you name it. The same skill makes a report, a letter, or a job application come alive instead of reading flat. Good description is what turns words on a page into something a reader can see and hear.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q How can you improve 'The garden was nice.' with a sense detail?

SOLUTION

Ask: what could a reader see or smell? Colourful flowers and sweet scents.

Replace the vague word 'nice' with those details.

So: The garden was full of red roses, and their sweet scent filled the air.

EXAMPLE 2

Q How can you improve 'The soup was good.' with a sense detail?

SOLUTION

Ask: what could a reader taste or smell? Rich tomato flavour and warm steam.

Replace the vague word 'good' with those details.

So: The soup tasted rich and warm, with steam rising from the bowl.

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Practice questions

1

Improve: 'The beach was nice.' (add a sense detail). Which sentence is the best improvement?

A. The beach was nice and big.

B. The beach had soft white sand and the sound of waves.

C. The beach was very nice.

D. The beach had sand and water.

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2

Improve: 'The dog was big.' (add a sense detail). Which sentence is the best improvement?

- A The dog was as tall as a table, with thick brown fur.
- B The dog was big and tall.
- C The dog was big and brown.
- D The dog was very big indeed.

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3

Improve: 'The cake was good.' Add a detail about how it tastes. Which sentence is the best improvement?

- A The cake was very good.
- B The cake was good and big.
- C The cake was moist and sweet, with chocolate icing.
- D The cake was nice to eat.

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4 Improve: 'The room was quiet.' Add a detail about a sound you could hear. Which sentence is the best improvement?

- A The room was quiet and still.
- B The room was quiet and dark.
- C The room was very quiet.
- D The room was so quiet you could hear the clock tick.

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5 Improve: 'The forest was dark.' Add a detail about the light. Which sentence is the best improvement?

- A The forest was dark, with only thin shafts of light between trees.
- B The forest was dark and silent.
- C The forest was dark and scary.
- D The forest was very dark indeed.

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6

Improve: 'The music was nice.' Add a comparison to something else. Which sentence is the best improvement?

A The music was really nice.

B The music was soft and slow, like a lullaby.

C The music was nice and loud.

D The music was good.

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7

Improve: 'The snow was cold.' Add a detail about how it feels under your feet. Which sentence is the best improvement?

A The snow was cold and deep.

B The snow was cold and white.

C The snow was cold and crunchy underfoot.

D The snow was very cold.

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8

Improve: 'The market was busy.' Add a detail about a smell or a sound. Which sentence is the best improvement?

A The market buzzed with voices and smelled of fresh bread.

B The market was busy and crowded.

C The market was busy and big.

D The market was very busy.

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9

Improve: 'The river was nice.' Add a detail about how it looks or sounds. Which sentence is the best improvement?

A The river was nice and wide.

B The river was nice and long.

C The river sparkled in the sun and rushed over stones.

D The river was very nice.

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10

Improve: 'The bread was good.' Add a detail about how it smells or feels. Which sentence is the best improvement?

A The bread was good and brown.

B The bread was warm and crusty, fresh from the oven.

C The bread was good and big.

D The bread was very good.

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ANSWER KEY

1. The beach had soft white sand and the sound of waves.
2. The dog was as tall as a table, with thick brown fur.
3. The cake was moist and sweet, with chocolate icing.
4. The room was so quiet you could hear the clock tick.
5. The forest was dark, with only thin shafts of light between trees.
6. The music was soft and slow, like a lullaby.
7. The snow was cold and crunchy underfoot.
8. The market buzzed with voices and smelled of fresh bread.
9. The river sparkled in the sun and rushed over stones.
10. The bread was warm and crusty, fresh from the oven.

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