

Unit 2: Descriptive Essays

Step 3: Developing Your Ideas

Exercise 1: Reading a student essay

- Read the essay on and answer the question “What main event does the writer describe”?

Exercise 2: Examining the student essay

- Based on your reading the passage, answer the questions.

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information on “Prepositional Phrases in Descriptive Writing.” and the images on the Facebook page.

Exercise 3: Using prepositional phrases

- Fill in the spaces using a prepositional phrase to add more detail.
- Go back to the short essay “Food from the Sea” and underline the prepositional phrases.

Language Focus

- Study the information on “Adding Details to Sentences.”

Exercise 4: Adding specific details

- Rewrite the sentences, adding more specific details.

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information on “Similes” and the images on the Facebook page.

Exercise 5: Understanding Similes

- Based on your reading the information, answer the questions.

Exercise 6: Identifying Similes

- Match the first half with the second half.

Exercise 7: Writing Similes

- Complete the sentences, making your own.

Step 4: Editing Your writing

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information on “Adjectives in Descriptive Writing” and the images on the Facebook page.

Exercise 1: Identifying adjectives

- Read the sentences, circling the adjectives and underlining the nouns.

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information on “Formation of Adjectives.”

Exercise 2: Formation of adjectives

- Circle the adjectives and write the verb or noun form on the blanks.

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information on “Describing Feelings.”

Exercise 3: Describing feelings

- Circle the correct adjective in each sentence.

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information on the “Order of Adjectives.”

Exercise 4: Using adjectives in the correct order

A. Write *C* if the adjectives are in the correct order. Write *I* if they are not.

B. Add two adjectives for each of the sentences.

Exercise 5: Building vocabulary with adjectives

- Circle a more specific adjective to replace the underlined word

Exercise 6: Editing a paragraph

- Read the paragraph and edit. Find out the six mistakes in adjective order.

Review: Putting It All Together

Exercise 1: Identifying Prepositional Phrases

- Circle the prepositional phrase

Exercise 2: Identifying adjectives

- Read the sentences. Circle the adjectives and underline the nouns they describe

Exercise 3: Building vocabulary with adjectives

- Rewrite each sentence by choosing the correct synonym for the underlined adjective from the words in parentheses.

Exercise 4: Using adjectives in the correct order

- Write *C* if the adjectives are in the correct order. Write *I* if they are not.

ASSIGNMENT

Step 1: Brainstorming (5 minutes). Brainstorm A & B

A) On a separate piece of paper, think of a food you really like or dislike. Brainstorm ideas about this food in a word web like the example given. Think about the food's taste, smell, appearance, preparation, and any sounds associated.

B) On a separate piece of paper, think of a place that has special significance for you. Brainstorm ideas about this place in a word web like the example given. Include details about the sounds, sights, and people that relate to the place you are writing about. Also, consider feelings and memories of events that happened there.

Step 2: Outlining (15 minutes)

Write an outline for the two topics above, using the following template.

Introduction (First Paragraph)	
Hook Get the reader interested.	
Background Information Explain who, what, when, and where.	
Thesis statement Prepare for the description by focusing on the topic and what you will say about it.	
Body Paragraphs (Middle Paragraphs)	
Topic Sentence Provide a controlling idea in each paragraph.	
Descriptive Details Develop your controlling idea.	
Conclusion (Last Paragraph)	
Final Opinion Give your final opinion of the topic.	

Step 3: Writing

- Use your brainstorming notes and outline to write your essay on a separate piece of paper. Choose only one topic to write an essay on.

Step 4: Editing

- When you have finished your essay, check it for mistakes using the checklist below

CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

- 1. Does the introduction include a hook to get your reader's attention?
- 2. Do you provide a background information?
- 3. Do you provide a thesis statement?
- 4. Do the body paragraphs contain enough descriptive details? Do the details support the topic sentence of each body paragraph?
- 5. Did you use similes correctly to support your descriptions and make your writing more descriptive?
- 6. Does the conclusion state a final opinion?
- 7. Is the purpose of the essay clear?

LANGUAGE

- 8. Did you use prepositional phrases to show location and time?
- 9. Did you use adjectives after articles and before nouns?
- 10. Did you use adjectives immediately after stative verbs?
- 11. Did you use the correct form and order of adjectives?