Writing descriptive paragraphs

The aim of descriptive writing is to help a reader to imagine or experience something you are describing. Descriptive writing provides the reader with a picture in words. You can make your writing more descriptive by:
- using descriptive language such as adjectives and adverbs to add colourful details.
- using figurative language such as similes and metaphors.
- using words that appeal to the five senses so that readers can hear, see, taste, touch and smell what you are describing.

Example: Read the following descriptive paragraph and notes.

These adjectives appeal to your sense of sight.

I always enjoy our school fête because there is so much to see

and do. (Pink, frothy) candy floss is the first thing I buy because

These adjectives appeal to your sense of taste and touch.

I absolutely love the (sweet, melting) taste in my mouth. Then I

These adjectives appeal to your sense of hearing and are examples of rhyme.

listen to the school band that plays (happy, snappy) music. As I

wander around the stalls, the (smoky) smell of (braaied) boerewors

These adjectives appeal to your sense of smell.

hangs (heavily) in the air. (The fête is like a merry-go-round) of

sights, sounds and tastes.

The simile compares the fête to a merry-go-round.

This adverb tells us more about the verb *hangs*.

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meaty furry creamy vanilla cuddly juicy icy freezing

1. Choose the best two adjectives from the margin to describe each of the nouns listed below.

   a) ice cream _____ _____

   b) hamburgers _____ _____

   c) kitten _____ _____

   d) winter _____ _____

2. a)

| hungry | concerned |
| kind | generously | thin |

2. b)

| many | daily | clever |
| exciting | studious |

2. Make the following sentences more descriptive by adding suitable adjectives and adverbs in the spaces provided. Choose from the words in the margin.

   a) The _____ (adjective), _____ (adjective) man feeds the _____ (adjective) _____ (adjective) dog _____ (adverb of manner).

   b) The _____ (adjective), _____ (adjective) boy reads _____ (adjective), _____ (adjective) stories _____ (adverb of time).

Let's Practise

3. Read the notes in the table below which describe Mick and Pumla's looks, the clothes they like and their personalities.

	Looks/appearance	Clothes	Personality
Mick	very tall, well built, short brown hair, blue eyes	casual clothes, jeans, T-shirts, takkies	serious, quiet, gentle, very funny/sense of humour, kind
Pumla	medium height, slim, short dark hair, brown eyes	bright colours, jeans, simple tops	talkative, lively, outgoing, friendly

4. Read the paragraph below that describes Mick. The information is based on the notes in the table above.

Mick is very tall and well built, with short brown hair and blue eyes. He usually wears casual clothes. He likes wearing jeans, T-shirts and takkies. He is a serious person. He is quiet and gentle, but sometimes he's very funny. Everyone likes Mick because he is kind.

5. Write a paragraph of five sentences to describe Pumla based on the notes in the table above and the example paragraph about Mick.

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. Write a descriptive paragraph of five sentences on the picture in the margin. Here are some ideas that you might use.

white waves

blue sea

shimmering sea

soft, yellow sand

The beach at Blue Water Bay is beautiful.

sea sparkling like diamonds

shiny, bright sun

light wind

red and white beach umbrella

colourful beach towels

children building sand castles

The introductory sentence has been done for you.

The beach at Blue Water Bay is beautiful. _____

_____

_____

_____

⭐ Hint

Choose words that appeal to the senses. Use images that appeal to the imagination.

Let's PRACTISE