

Writing to Describe

🎯 Writing to describe aims to:

- create an impression about what something is like
- interest, engage or influence the reader.

👉 Before Starting:

1. Make sure you have read the task carefully and understand what you are being asked to write about.
2. Think about situations and places that you have experienced. Your knowledge will help in developing realistic detail.
3. Decide what you are going to write about and the direction you are going to take.
4. Plan carefully to make sure that you can produce an interesting and engaging piece of writing.

⚠️ Things to avoid:

Mundane/boring – e.g. *I woke up and opened my curtains. I went downstairs and had cornflakes for my breakfast.*

Overly ambitious – e.g. *The ostentatious azure automobile conveyance was established in the foreground of my familial abode.*

Unrealistic/inconsistent detail – e.g. *Wind howled as the rain poured from the heavens. The cottage was illuminated by golden rays of sunshine.*

👤 Planning:

Plan

- Use whatever form of plan makes most sense to you – a spider diagram, bullet points, table, notes.
- Don't write in sentences – plans should be tightly focused, use key words and ideas.

Things to consider

- Content – what are the specifics you want to include?
- Jot down ways to make those ideas interesting.
- Highlight which areas you will develop further.
- Decide what tense you are writing in (you will need to make sure you can stick to it).
- Think about tone.
- Think about your beginning and ending and how you will get from one to the other.

👍 TOP TIP: Structure:

For the highest marks you must show you can organise your ideas into a coherent piece of writing.

Writing should be organised using paragraphs, but these can be varied in length to create effect.

Any dialogue should be structured accurately to showcase your skills and range of punctuation.

Your sentences are the building blocks of your written work. Think carefully about the best way to put them together to create the best and most interesting piece of writing.

? Examples of previous description questions:

Describe an occasion when you did something you found rewarding.

Write an article for a travel magazine describing somewhere interesting that you have visited.

Describe the ways in which technology is important to your life.

Describe a time when you faced a challenge.

💡 Useful ways to add interest:

similies, personification, organise for effect, show don't tell, metaphor, details to emotively engage/interest, carefully chosen vocabulary, carefully organised sentence structures, alliteration, onomatopoeia, appeal to the senses, extended metaphor.

Checklist for improving your writing:

- ✓ Have you tried to engage your reader?
- ✓ Have you added interesting, descriptive detail?
- ✓ Have you developed your ideas in sufficient detail?
- ✓ Have you structured your work carefully and for effect?
- ✓ Have you proof-read your work for errors?