

# DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE

## HOW TO BRING YOUR TEXT TO LIFE.

Descriptive writing portrays people, places, things, moments and processes with enough vivid detail to help the reader create a mental picture of what is being written about. It's important to use vivid and colorful words so that we can feel what you want to express.

### Things to Consider as You Write Your Essay

Whether writing from 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person:

Think of something you want to describe

Why is this particularly important to you?

What were you doing?

What other things were happening around you?

Is there anything specific that stands out in your mind?

How did the events unfold?

Where were objects located in relation to where you were?

How did the surroundings remind you of other places you have been?

What sights, smells, sounds, and tastes were in the air?

Did the sights, smells, sounds, and tastes remind you of anything?

What were you feeling at that time?

Has there been a moment in which you have felt this way before?

What do you want the reader to feel after reading the paper?

What types of words and images can convey this feeling?

Can you think of another situation that was similar to the one you are writing about? How can it help explain what you are writing about?

Is there enough detail in your essay to create a mental image for the reader?

You need to appeal to the Senses when you describe: Let the reader see, smell, hear, taste, and feel what you write in your essay.

Following this introduction you will find **a list of words and expressions** that you may use to enrich your writing.

***"Said is Dead!"***

# Words to use instead...

<b>Say</b>	<b>Tell</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Bad</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mention</li> <li>• point out</li> <li>• express</li> <li>• put it</li> <li>• comment</li> <li>• remark</li> <li>• explain</li> <li>• add</li> <li>• state</li> <li>• claim</li> <li>• confirm</li> <li>• insist</li> <li>• argue</li> <li>• answer</li> <li>• respond</li> <li>• reply</li> <li>• announce</li> <li>• admit</li> <li>• agree</li> <li>• report</li> <li>• blurt</li> <li>• whisper</li> <li>• yelp</li> <li>• blubber</li> <li>• holler</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inform</li> <li>• notify</li> <li>• bring sth to sb's attention</li> <li>• assure</li> <li>• advise</li> <li>• convince</li> <li>• promise</li> <li>• remind</li> <li>• teach</li> <li>• warn</li> <li>• reveal</li> <li>• disclose</li> <li>• let sb know</li> <li>• make sth public</li> <li>• divulge</li> <li>• expose</li> <li>• order</li> <li>• instruct</li> <li>• persuade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nice</li> <li>• great</li> <li>• perfect</li> <li>• marvelous</li> <li>• wonderful</li> <li>• fantastic</li> <li>• terrific</li> <li>• amazing</li> <li>• incredible</li> <li>• brilliant</li> <li>• neat</li> <li>• cool</li> <li>• excellent</li> <li>• outstanding</li> <li>• remarkable</li> <li>• fine</li> <li>• satisfactory</li> <li>• awesome</li> <li>• exceptional</li> <li>• phenomenal</li> <li>• extraordinary</li> <li>• fabulous</li> <li>• unique</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no good</li> <li>• awful/terrible</li> <li>• appalling/lousy</li> <li>• dreadful</li> <li>• unfortunate</li> <li>• weak/ poor</li> <li>• of poor quality</li> <li>• shoddy</li> <li>• sloppy</li> <li>• so-so</li> <li>• not very good</li> <li>• horrendous</li> <li>• horrific</li> <li>• heinous</li> <li>• worse</li> <li>• inferior</li> <li>• mediocre</li> <li>• nothing special</li> </ul>

# Words to use instead:

<b>Beautiful</b>	<b>Ugly</b>	<b>Boring</b>	<b>Interesting</b>
good-looking pretty (a woman) handsome (a man) attractive nice-looking cute gorgeous sparkling stunning hunky (a man) dashing (a man) elegant classy striking refined lovely <u>Thing/place/                      Countryside</u> magnificent superb exquisite elegant attractive artistic	not very good- looking unattractive awful plain homely hideous repulsive unsightly	not very interesting dull monotonous tedious repetitive uninspiring put you to sleep  <u>Place</u> dead dreary  <u>Person</u> dull bore	fascinating intriguing stimulating exciting thrilling unusual colorful compelling mesmerizing

# Words to use instead

Happy	Sad	Big	Small
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•cheerful</li> <li>•lively</li> <li>•glad</li> <li>•excited</li> <li>•delighted</li> <li>•pleased</li> <li>•thrilled</li> <li>•jolly</li> <li>•contented</li> <li>•jubilant</li> <li>•elated</li> <li>•overjoyed</li> <li>•ecstatic</li> <li>•vivacious</li> <li>•bubbly</li> <li>•enthusiastic</li> <li>•blissful</li> <li>•in a good mood</li> <li>•have a happy/cheerful/sunny disposition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•unhappy</li> <li>•upset</li> <li>•miserable</li> <li>•homesick</li> <li>•dejected</li> <li>•downcast</li> <li>•gloomy</li> <li>•depressed</li> <li>•heartbroken</li> <li>•downhearted</li> <li>•morose</li> <li>•sorrowful</li> <li>•regretful</li> <li>•downcast</li> <li>•discouraged</li> <li>•disheartened</li> <li>•dispirited</li> <li>•wretched</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Something can be:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• depressing</li> <li>• upsetting</li> <li>• miserable</li> <li>• heartbreaking</li> <li>• dreary</li> <li>• bleak</li> <li>• dismal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>large</li> <li>wide</li> <li>huge</li> <li>enormous</li> <li>great</li> <li>gigantic</li> <li>colossal</li> <li>giant</li> <li>massive</li> <li>immense</li> <li>bulky</li> <li>voluminous</li> <li>vast</li> <li>spacious</li> <li>roomy</li> <li>substantial</li> <li>significant</li> <li>important</li> <li>influential</li> <li>considerable</li> <li>extensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>little</li> <li>tiny</li> <li>miniscule</li> <li>microscopic</li> <li>narrow</li> <li>thin</li> <li>slender</li> <li>modest</li> <li>insignificant</li> <li>inconsequential</li> <li>unimportant</li> <li>trivial</li> <li>brief</li> </ul>

# Words to use instead

<b>Nice</b>		
<p><b><u>A person</u></b>                      pleasant                      likeable                      lovely                      good-natured                      sweet                      charming                      lovable                      loving                      adorable</p>	<p>friendly                      inspiring                      helpful                      funny                      kind                      gentle                      warm                      happy                      thoughtful                      cooperative                      generous                      understanding</p>	<p><b><u>Something</u></b>                      lovely                      pleasant                      delightful                      great                      appealing                      funny                      hilarious</p>

<b>Right</b>	<b>Wrong</b>
<p>correct                      accurate                      justified                      justifiable                      legitimate                      fair</p>	<p>incorrect                      misleading                      inaccurate                      bad                      mistaken                      misinformed                      false                      erroneous                      unjustified                      unfair</p>

# Words to use instead

<p><b>Delicious</b></p>	<p><b>Energetic</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tasty</li> <li>• good</li> <li>• juicy</li> <li>• appetizing</li> <li>• tempting</li> <li>• mouth-watering</li> <li>• yummy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• active</li> <li>• dynamic</li> <li>• tireless</li> <li>• hyperactive</li> <li>• boisterous</li> <li>• full of energy/bursting with energy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ways to describe food</b></p>	<p><b><u>Happy and energetic</u></b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sweet . fresh-tasting</li> <li>• fattening . nutritious</li> <li>• salty . crusty</li> <li>• spicy . crispy</li> <li>• oily . crunchy</li> <li>• smooth . creamy</li> <li>• thick . cheap</li> <li>• chunky . expensive</li> <li>• flavorful</li> <li>• garlicky</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lively</li> <li>• vivacious</li> <li>• animated</li> <li>• full of life</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Energetic activities, behavior</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vigorous</li> <li>• tireless</li> <li>• lively</li> <li>• animated</li> </ul>
<p><b>Funny</b></p>	<p><b>Important</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amusing</li> <li>• humorous</li> <li>• hilarious</li> <li>• witty</li> <li>• be a laugh</li> <li>• be a hoot</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Something is important</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• significant/ of great significance</li> <li>• big</li> <li>• major</li> <li>• key</li> <li>• historic</li> <li>• critical</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Important and necessary</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vital</li> <li>• essential</li> <li>• crucial</li> </ul> <p><b><u>A person</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leading</li> <li>• influential</li> <li>• prominent</li> </ul>

# Words to use instead

Eat	Walk
<p><b><u>To eat</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eat</li> <li>• have</li> <li>• chew</li> <li>• swallow</li> <li>• lick something off something</li> <li>• chow down (on)</li> <li>• feed</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to have a meal</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a meal</li> <li>• have breakfast/lunch/dinner</li> <li>• have something to eat</li> <li>• grab something/a bite to eat</li> <li>• have a snack</li> <li>• dine (with)</li> <li>• dine out</li> <li>• eat out</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to eat a lot or too much</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stuff yourself (with)</li> <li>• pig out (on)</li> <li>• overeat</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to eat something very quickly</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gobble up/ down</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to eat noisily</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• munch (on)</li> <li>• crunch (on)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to eat small amounts of food</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nibble (on)</li> <li>• pick at</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>To walk quickly</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pace</li> <li>• stride</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to walk slowly in a relaxed way</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stroll (along/through/ around)</li> <li>• saunter (down/into/across)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to walk slowly because you are tired</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trudge (through/ along)</li> <li>• plod (through / along)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to walk in an unsteady way</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stagger</li> <li>• stumble</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to walk with heavy steps</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stomp (across, out, into)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to walk quietly</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pad</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to walk proudly</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• swagger (into/down/across)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to walk without going in one particular direction</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walk around</li> <li>• wander (about/around/through)</li> <li>• roam (about/around/through)</li> <li>• prowl (about/around/through)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>to walk for pleasure or exercise</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walk</li> <li>• go for a walk</li> <li>• go for a stroll</li> <li>• go hiking</li> <li>• stretch your legs</li> <li>• walk the dog</li> </ul>