

UNIT 4

DESCRIBING WITH SPACE ORDER



OBJECTIVES

- Use listing to get ideas for describing a place
- Organize a descriptive paragraph using space order
- Develop a description with specific details

OBJECTIVES

- Identify adjectives and use them in the correct order
- Vary the structure of sentences with prepositional phrases
- Write, revise, and edit a descriptive paragraph

INTRODUCTION

A descriptive paragraph describes...

- how something looks, feels, tastes, and sounds

PREWRITING

Listing descriptive details are a prewriting techniques that allows you to brainstorm ideas for descriptive paragraphs.

PREWRITING

Here is how to do it:

- Begin by thinking about the place, object, or person you want to describe.
- Make a list of all the words and phrases that come into your mind.
- Think of way to describe where things are by using phrases beginning with prepositions.

Using Listing to Get Ideas

ADJECTIVES THAT DESCRIBE A PERSON:

athletic, careful, hardworking, neat, boring,
disorganized, lazy, messy

ADJECTIVES THAT DESCRIBE A PLACE:

clean, dark, small, sunny, cluttered, messy, spacious,
tidy

Descriptive Paragraphs

There are two keys to writing a good description:

- Using space order to organize your ideas.
- Using supporting sentences with specific detail to help your reader visualize what you are describing.

Space Order

Imagine that you are standing in the doorway of your classroom. How would you describe the room to someone who has never seen it? Here are some possibilities:

Clockwise

Front to back

Space Order

These two ways of organizing a description are common types of space order. When your description moves through a space in clear direction, it helps your reader imagine what you are describing. Other possibilities include:

top to bottom/ far to near/ right to left/ outside to inside
bottom to top/ near to far/ left to right/ inside to outside

ORGANIZATION

Topic Sentences & Concluding Sentences

The topic sentence of a descriptive paragraph also has a topic and controlling idea. The topic usually names the person, place, or thing to be described. The controlling idea usually gives a general impression of the topic.

Topic Sentences & Concluding Sentences

Here are other examples of topic sentences for descriptive paragraphs.

- **The club** was full of young people having fun.
- **The old house** looked ready to fall down.
- **The cave** was a dangerous place to enter.

****Red: Topic / Blue: Controlling Idea ****

Topic Sentences & Concluding Sentences

The concluding sentence of a descriptive paragraph can do one of the following:

- It may repeat the idea stated in the topic sentence using different words.

or

- It may repeat the idea and also give the writer's opinion or feeling about the topic.

Topic Sentences & Concluding Sentences

Here are some examples of concluding sentences that you might use with the topic sentences above:

- To sum up, the music, dancing, and flashing lights made the club an exciting and fun place to be.

(Idea in different words)

Topic Sentences & Concluding Sentences

- In short, I doubt the old house will survive one more winter.
(Opinion)
- My friend and I were very happy when we got out of the cave.
(Feeling)

Supporting Sentences With Specific Details

When you describe something, your goal is to make your reader “see” what you have described. The way to do this is to use supporting sentences that contain specific details.

Vague	Specific
a lot of money	\$500,000
a nice car	a red BMW convertible
a pretty face	Warm brown eyes and sparkling teeth

Outlining

In this section, you will practice using listing and outlining to organize the details of a descriptive paragraph.

After you use listing to get your ideas, the next step is to edit your list and then make an outline. You can do this in three stages:

Outlining

- (1) Read your list. Cross out repeated or unimportant ideas.
- (2) Look at your details. Decide what space order you will use: right to left, front to back, etc. Then number your details in that order.
- (3) Use your edited list to make an outline.

GRAMMAR

Adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns. They tell what things look like, what kind they are, or how many or how much there are. Adjectives answer the questions:

What kind?/ Which one?/ How many/much?

Adjectives

Rules:

(1) Adjectives come in front of nouns, not after them.

(2) Adjectives can also follow linking verbs.

(3) Adjectives have only one form. Use the same adjective with singular and plural nouns.

Adjectives

Rules:

(4) A compound adjective is two or more words that function as an adjective. A compound adjective often has a hyphen/ hyphens between its parts.

(5) In compound adjectives with hyphenated number-noun combinations, the noun is always singular.

Adjectives

Rules:

(6) Some nouns can also function as adjectives.

(7) Proper adjectives (that is, adjectives referring to nationalities, language, places, and so on) are capitalized.

(8) Present and past participles can be used as adjectives.

Order of Adjectives

Cumulative
adjectives

Coordinate
adjectives

Cumulative Adjectives

Cumulative adjectives must be in a particular order while the order of coordinate adjectives can vary.

Cumulative Adjectives

- always go before a noun.
- must be in a particular order.
- do not put commas between cumulative adjectives.

1. Quantity	4. Origin or nationality
2. Opinion	5. Material
3. Appearance size/age/shape, length/ condition/color	6. Kind/ use/ purpose

Coordinate Adjectives

Coordinate adjectives can go before a noun or after a linking verb. You can write coordinate adjectives in any order, and you can separate them from each other with commas. Also:

Coordinate Adjectives

- When coordinate adjectives come before a noun, you may put the word **and** before the last one (but you don't have to).

BEFORE A NOUN: A **hungry, cold, wet** dog sat outside our front door.

(OPTIONAL): A **wet, cold, and hungry** dog sat outside our front door.

Coordinate Adjectives

- When two or more coordinate adjectives come after a linking verb, you must put **and** before the last one.

AFTER A LINKING VERB (REQUIRED):

The dog was **hungry**, **wet** and **cold**.

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Prepositions

Prepositions are words such as of, to, from, in, and at. Most prepositions are one word. A few prepositions are two words (next to) or three words (in front of).

Prepositions

Here is a list of common prepositions:

above	behind	throughout	according to
around	beyond	upon	in back of
before	down	without	in place of

Prepositional Phrases

A preposition is usually combined with a noun or noun phrase to make a prepositional phrase, such as in the house/ at six o' clock. Here are some common types of prepositional phrases:

- Prepositional phrases of place (Where?)

on the desk/ opposite the door/ next to the window

Prepositional Phrases

- Prepositional phrases of time (When?)

at the beginning/ before the test/ after that

- Prepositional phrases of possession (Whose?)

(the father) of the bride/ (the color) of the rainbow

Prepositional Phrases

- Other prepositional phrases describe or identify someone or something. (Which one/ ones?)

(the boy) with red hair/ (the men) in the blue uniforms

REFERENCE

Hogue, A. (2017). *Longman Academic Writing Series 2*. USA: Pearson Education, Inc.

IMAGE SOURCE

- <https://veerle.duoh.com/inspiration/portland-monthly-mag>