

# UNIT 1. WRITING DESCRIPTIVE PASSAGES

## **DEFINITION**

A *descriptive passage* is a focused and detail-rich account of a specific topic.

*Writing descriptive passages* refers to the process of creating written content that describes a person, place, object, or event in vivid detail. The aim of descriptive writing is to enable the reader to form a mental image of what is being described, using sensory details, vivid language, and figurative expressions. Effective descriptive passages engage the reader's feelings and emotions by using words to paint a clear and expressive picture. Descriptive writing can be found in various forms, including literature, travel notes, creative essays, and more, and it helps the reader better understand the topic and feel connected to the subject matter.



## ***Describing People***

### ***Definition***

*Describing people* is the use of words and language to create a verbal picture or provide information about a person's appearance, personality, characteristics, behavior, and other distinguishing features. It involves the use of descriptive language to convey a clear and vivid image of a person to the reader or listener, allowing them to form a mental image and gain insight into the person being described. Describing people is a common practice in various forms of communication, such as storytelling, writing, journalism, and everyday conversation, and often serves to create a more complete and authentic portrait of the individual.

## ***Structure for Describing People***

***A descriptive composition about a person should consist of:***

### ***Introduction***

#### ***Paragraph 1***

*Name of the person, time or place you met/ saw him/her, how you heard about him/her.*

### ***Main body***

#### ***Paragraph 2***

*Appearance: height/build, age, facial features, hair, clothes (moving from the most general aspects to more specific details).*

#### ***Paragraph 3***

*Personality characteristics and justifications. If you want to mention negative qualities, use mild language (tends to be, seems to be, is rather, etc.)*

*Using a variety of adjectives will make your description more interesting e. g. well-behaved, good-natured, gorgeous, etc.*

#### ***Paragraph 4***

*Hobbies, interests, any other activities.*

### ***Conclusion***

#### ***Final paragraph***

*Comments & feelings about the person.*

# *Tips for Describing People*



## **Introduction**

- ✓ Start with a brief introduction to the person you're describing. Mention their name, age, and any other relevant information. You can also provide the context in which you met or know the person.

## **Physical Appearance**

- ✓ Begin by describing the person's physical attributes. This can include their height, build (slim, athletic, etc.), hair color and style, eye color, and any distinctive features like tattoos, piercings, or scars.
- ✓ Mention their clothing style and any accessories they are wearing.

## **Personality Traits**

- ✓ Share information about the person's personality. Are they outgoing, introverted, friendly, shy, etc.?
- ✓ Mention their character traits, such as kindness, humor, ambition, or determination.

## **Behavior and Mannerisms**

- ✓ Describe how the person behaves. Do they have any particular habits or mannerisms that stand out?
- ✓ Explain how they interact with others, whether they are polite, reserved, or assertive.

## **Background and History**

- ✓ Provide some background information, such as where they come from, their cultural or ethnic background, and their educational or professional history.

## **Interests and Hobbies**

- ✓ Discuss the person's interests and hobbies, as they can reveal a lot about their character and passions.

## **Personal Stories**

- ✓ If applicable, share any personal stories that illustrate the person's character, actions, or impact on others.

## **Conclusion**

- ✓ Summarize the main points and leave the reader with a lasting impression of the person.

## ***Useful Phrases for Describing People***

### **Physical Appearance**

*General Description: Begin with an overall description.*

He/She is...

He/She has...

He/She appears to be...

He/She looks...

*Height and Build:*

He/She is of average/short/tall height.

He/She has a slim/athletic/slender build.

*Hair:*

He/She has .....(adjective) hair .....(color, length, style).

His/Her hair is .....(color) and ..... (length).

She/He wears her/his hair.....

*Face:*

He/She has a .....(shape) face.

His/Her face is adorned with .....(facial features).

His/Her eyes are ..... (color).

*Clothing:*

He/She is dressed in .....(clothing description).

His/Her style is ..... (adjective), wearing .....(clothing items).

He/She often wears .....(specific style).

## **Personality Traits**

*General Traits: Describe their character.*

As for her/his personality, .....

He/She is .....(adjective) and .....(adjective).

His/Her personality is characterized by ..... (traits).

He/She possesses a .....(trait) nature.

*Positive Traits: Describe their positive qualities.*

He/She is .....(positive trait) and .....(positive trait).

His/Her ..... (trait) makes others feel .....(emotion).

He/She radiates positivity and .....(positive trait).

*Negative Traits: Describe their less favorable qualities (if necessary).*

At times, he/she can be .....(negative trait).

His/Her ..... (negative trait) can be challenging.

He/She has areas for improvement like .....(negative trait).

He/She tends to be .....

I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but I think .....

## **Behaviour and Mannerisms**

*General Behavior: Describe how they behave.*

He/She typically .....(verb).

In social situations, he/she .....(behavior).

*Speech and Communication: Describe their manner of speech.*

He/She speaks with a ..... (adjective) tone.

His/Her words are often .....(adjective).

When communicating, he/she .....(speech style).

*Body Language: Mention their physical expressions.*

He/She tends to .....(body language).

His/Her gestures are .....(adjective).

In certain situations, he/she ....

## **Emotions and Expressions**

*Positive Expressions: Describe their positive emotions.*

He/She often appears .....(positive emotion).

His/Her .....(positive emotion) is evident.

His/Her face lights up when ....  
His/Her face is ..... (emotion) when .....  
In everyday scenarios, he/she ....

*Negative Expressions: Describe their negative emotions (if necessary).*

He/She can seem ..... (negative emotion) during..... (circumstances).  
When ..... (negative situation), he/she ..... (reaction).  
His/Her .....(emotion) becomes apparent when .....

### **Interests and Hobbies**

He/She has a great passion for...  
One of his/her favorite pastimes is...  
He/She finds joy in...  
In his/her free time, he/she enjoys...  
He/She is an avid fan of...

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, .....(person's name) is an extraordinary individual who possesses a unique blend of qualities.  
To sum it up, .....(person's name) is truly one of a kind.  
In summary,..... (person's name) is a remarkable human being who leaves a lasting impression on everyone they meet.  
In a nutshell, .....(person's name) is an exceptional individual in every sense of the word.  
Overall,..... (person's name) is an outstanding person who enriches the lives of those around them.  
To wrap it up, .....(person's name) stands out as an extraordinary individual.  
In brief,..... (person's name) is an exceptional example of a .....  
(positive quality) person.  
In short, .....(person's name) is a remarkable human being whose  
.....(notable trait) shines brightly.  
All in all, .....(person's name) is a testament to the power of ..... and its positive influence on others.

### ***Examples***

#### **Example 1. Describing a Friend**

I would like to introduce you to my dear friend, Sarah. She is a remarkable individual, and her vibrant personality truly shines through in all that she does.

Sarah is of average height with a slender build. Her emerald, green eyes stand out against her fair complexion, and her long, chestnut hair cascades down her back. She has a warm, inviting smile that can instantly brighten anyone's day.

One of Sarah's most endearing qualities is her kindness. She goes out of her way to help others and always has a listening ear. She's an incredibly positive and optimistic person, and her enthusiasm is contagious. Sarah is also quite adventurous and loves exploring new places and trying new experiences.

In her free time, Sarah enjoys reading books, and she's an avid fan of classic literature. She also has a passion for hiking and spends weekends exploring the great outdoors. Her love for animals is evident as she volunteers to care for abandoned pets at a local animal shelter.

In a nutshell, Sarah is not just a friend, she's a true treasure. Her combination of inner and outer beauty, caring nature, and thirst for life make her someone I'm lucky to have in my life.

## **Example 2. Describing a Family Member**

Let me introduce you to my elder sister, Emily. She has been a source of inspiration and support throughout my life, and her character is truly exceptional.



Emily has a graceful presence and stands at an average height. Her expressive hazel eyes mirror her emotions, and her auburn hair, which she keeps neatly styled, frames her face beautifully. She has a charming smile that can put anyone at ease.

As for her personality, Emily is the epitome of kindness and empathy. My sister has an unwavering compassion



for others and dedicates her time to various charitable causes. She is also an eternal optimist, finding the silver lining in every situation. Her patience is remarkable, especially when it comes to helping and mentoring others.

In her free time, Emily enjoys painting. Her artistic talent shines through her creations, and she often participates in local art exhibitions. She's also an avid reader and loves discussing literature. Emily's love for nature makes her spend weekends hiking in the wilderness.

To wrap it up, Emily is not just a sister, she's a role model. Her inner and outer beauty, her caring nature, and her dedication to making the world a better place are qualities that I deeply admire.

### **Example 3. Describing a Colleague**



I'd like you to meet my colleague, John. He's an invaluable member of our team, and his contributions have greatly impacted our work environment.

John is a tall and well-built individual with a commanding presence. His sharp blue eyes radiate confidence, and his neatly groomed brown hair adds to his professional appearance. He's always dressed impeccably in a business suit.

John is a true leader in the workplace. He's organized, focused, and possesses excellent problem-solving skills. He's known for his reliability and is often the go-to person for advice and assistance. Despite his serious behaviour at work, he has a great sense of humour and is known for lightening up the office with his jokes.

Outside of work, John is an enthusiastic golfer. He spends weekends on the golf course, where he finds relaxation and unwinds. He's also an art lover, regularly attending classical music concerts and art exhibitions.



All in all, John is more than a colleague, he's a mentor and a friend. His dedication to his work, combined with his passion for leisure activities, make him a well-rounded and admirable individual.

## *Samples*

**Task. Complete samples of describing people in your own words.**

### **Sample 1. Describing a Family Member**

Let me introduce you to my cousin, Alex. \_\_\_\_\_ has been an integral part of my life, and his remarkable qualities make him truly exceptional. Alex has a distinct charm and \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ eyes are windows to his soul, revealing his emotions with every gaze. His \_\_\_\_\_ (hair color), always impeccably styled, enhances his overall appearance. A warm, \_\_\_\_\_ smile is one of Alex's trademarks, creating an inviting atmosphere wherever he goes.

In terms of personality, Alex is a beacon of \_\_\_\_\_ (positive character trait). He demonstrates unparalleled \_\_\_\_\_ and dedicates his time to various \_\_\_\_\_ (activities). An eternal optimist, Alex finds joy in every situation, and his patience is a virtue, especially when guiding and supporting others.

During his leisure time, Alex is passionate about \_\_\_\_\_ (hobby or activity). His \_\_\_\_\_ (talent or interest) shines through his creations, and he often participates in \_\_\_\_\_. An avid reader, Alex enjoys \_\_\_\_\_, and weekends are often spent engaging in \_\_\_\_\_ (a particular outdoor activity).

To sum it up, Alex is more than just a cousin, \_\_\_\_\_ serves as a source of inspiration. I deeply admire \_\_\_\_\_, the compassionate nature, and the commitment to creating a positive influence.

### **Sample 2. Describing a Friend**

Let me introduce you to my close friend, \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ has been an integral part of my life, and our bond is truly remarkable.

\_\_\_\_\_ has a \_\_\_\_\_ that reflects \_\_\_\_\_ vibrant personality. Standing at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ possesses a \_\_\_\_\_ (build) frame. \_\_\_\_\_ (color) hair, meticulously styled, adds to \_\_\_\_\_ distinctive appearance.

In terms of personality, \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ radiates \_\_\_\_\_, always putting others at ease with \_\_\_\_\_ smile. \_\_\_\_\_ compassion and \_\_\_\_\_ nature make \_\_\_\_\_ an exceptional friend.

Outside of our shared adventures, \_\_\_\_\_ has a passion for \_\_\_\_\_ (activity). \_\_\_\_\_ talent shines through \_\_\_\_\_ creations, and \_\_\_\_\_ often engages in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. In \_\_\_\_\_ free time, \_\_\_\_\_ enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ (hobby), which reflects \_\_\_\_\_ spirit.

In a nutshell, \_\_\_\_\_ is more than just a friend, \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ inner and outer beauty, \_\_\_\_\_ nature, and \_\_\_\_\_ are qualities that I deeply admire. In our shared journey, \_\_\_\_\_ continues to be \_\_\_\_\_, and our friendship is a testament to the \_\_\_\_\_ experiences we've embraced together.

### ***Pools (Creative Tasks)***

- 1. Character Profile.** Describe a fictional character you've created. Provide details about their appearance, personality, and background.
- 2. Friend Portrait.** Imagine you are an artist capturing the essence of your friend on canvas. Your task is to create a vivid and detailed portrait using words instead of paints. Provide a comprehensive description of your friend's physical appearance, personality traits, and unique qualities that make them special to you. Make sure to use a variety of descriptive adjectives to paint a vivid picture of your friend in the reader's mind.
- 3. Historical Figure.** Choose a historical figure you admire and describe them as if you were meeting them in person. Include details about their appearance, character, and accomplishments.
- 4. My Next-Door Neighbour.** Think about your neighbour who lives next door or near your home. Describe this neighbour in detail. Include information about their appearance, personality, interests, and how your interactions with them have been. Share what kind of relationship you have with your neighbour and any memorable experiences you've had together.
- 5. Describing a Celebrity.** Choose a celebrity from the world of entertainment, sports, or any other field you admire or are interested in. Provide a comprehensive description of this celebrity. Include details about their appearance, personality, background, career, achievements, and any unique qualities or characteristics that set them apart. Explain why you find this celebrity inspiring or captivating and how they have influenced you or their audience.

- 6. Dream Travel Companion.** Imagine you have the opportunity to embark on an exciting adventure worldwide, and you can bring along your dream travel companion. In a well-structured description, describe this dream travel companion. Include details about their appearance, personality, interests, and why you believe they would make the perfect companion for your journey.
- 7. Family Portrait.** Create a description of your family members as if you were an artist painting a family portrait. Include characteristics, hobbies, and roles within the family.
- 8. The Stranger.** Write a description of a person you see in a public place. Include their appearance, body language, and what you imagine their life story to be.
- 9. Life Coach Character.** Create a life coach character who specializes in helping people overcome challenges. Describe their appearance, coaching methods, and the success stories of their clients.
- 10. Local Hero.** Write a profile of someone in your local community who has made a significant impact. Describe their contributions, personality, and why they are admired by others.