

# Descriptions

## What are descriptions and why do we write them?

Descriptions are written to describe the characteristic features of a particular thing. Descriptions can be written about a person, a place or a thing. It could be an imaginative or an objective description. Descriptions can be part of a longer type of text, for example: an information report or a narrative text.

## What structure is needed in a description?

A description includes:

- An introduction to the subject.
- Descriptive information about the subject, for example: physical appearance, qualities, habitual behaviour, significant attributes, other interesting information, etc.

## What are the main language features to be taught?

### Language of particularisation

In a factual description, the writer refers to a certain person, a place or a thing. Therefore, the language of particularisation is a very important feature in this type of text, for example: The Big Bad Wolf, The Troll, Little Miss Muffet, this, it, he, she, etc.

### Language of generalisation

In an information report, the writer refers to the main person, place or thing using language of generalisation, for example: All koalas have, all sharks have, all of the animals have... etc.

### Language of description

- Adjectives and adjectival phrases, for example: The girl **with the long golden hair**.
- Adverbs and adverbial phrases of place, manner, cause and degree, for example: The gorilla stood **in front of** his cave (place), she scratched her head **thoughtfully** (manner), the gorilla was **terribly** (degree) confused **at what he saw** (cause).
- Verbs, for example: charged, galloped, hurried, etc.

### Language of comparison/contrast

- For example: Trams **are similar** to trains. (factual)
- For example: The gorilla **was the size of a small mountain**. (literary)

### Figurative language

- Alliteration, for example: The little boy grew **tired trying to tie** his laces.
- Onomatopoeia, for example: **Pop, pop** went the balloons.
- Simile, for example: The snow was as **bright as the sunlight**.
- Metaphor, for example: The classroom **is a pigsty**.
- Personification, for example: The leaves **danced** in the breeze.
- Idioms, for example: The main character **was on fire** after they completed all their work.

# Descriptions

## What other features are there?

### Text cohesion

This is an important feature. Links and relationships within a descriptive text must be used for the text to 'flow'. This is often completed through linking back to something that has already been mentioned using synonyms or pronouns, for example; Cinderella, she, the youngest step sister, or the chimpanzee, it, this animal, etc.

### Timeless present tense

- For example: William **has** wonky legs. The policeman **carries** a gun.

### Subject- Verb Agreement

- For example: The dwarves **are** friendly. Cinderella is beautiful. The children **were** at the park. The gorilla **was** fierce.

### Noun-Pronoun Agreement

- For example: The **wolf sat** in bed. **He** jumped out of bed and pounced on Little Red Riding Hood.