



Exploring with Language Structures

CAPS: Grade 4, Term 3



Writing and Presenting

Writes a description of a person/ animal/ place:

Uses appropriate grammar (adjectives), spelling and punctuation

Note



In a descriptive paragraph we use adjectives to describe something.

Start with a topic sentence: this introduces your descriptive paragraph.

Example

My **fluffy** cat named Ginger has **tiny**
white socks on her paws.



The adjectives in bold are important in descriptive paragraphs.

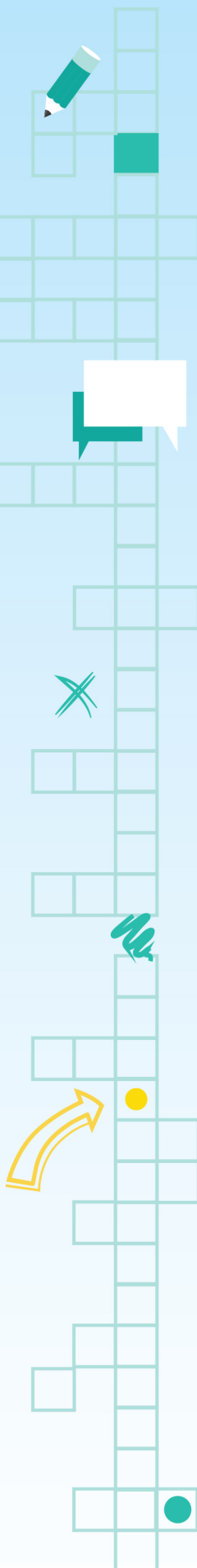
The cat does not literally have socks on. This is called a *metaphor*. It makes your writing more descriptive. The cat's paws are white and it looks like she is wearing socks.

Write in the present tense.

Example

Her black eyes are as big as **saucers**.

Comparing eyes to saucers is a very good way of describing the cat. This is known as a *simile*. Without having to look at the picture, you know that the cat has huge eyes.





Use your senses when describing an object, person, animal or place.

Example

My kitty **purrs** so loudly when I scratch her furry tummy.

Use the sense of sound – **purrs**.

A descriptive paragraph must flow in a meaningful and logical way.

Give a reason for writing about your topic.

Example

I **love** Ginger because she curls herself into my lap when I feel sad. Her soft fur strokes my skin, as if to say, "Everything is going to be all right."

Express your feelings.
Explain why this means something to you.

Activity 1

Edit this descriptive paragraph:

- Circle the correct present tense verbs (in the brackets).
- Underline the correct spelling (in brackets).
- Correct or fill in all the punctuation marks in red.

There are 15 errors in total: one of the corrections has been done for you.

the sandy beach (is/are) my happy place. i (look/looks) at the ocean and see the (bold/bald) waves crashing near the (shore/sure). I (taste/tasting) the salty (see/sea) air and (feel/felt) my lungs (sparkel/sparkle) with the crisp air that I (breath/breathe) in. the golden sand (play/plays/played) in between my toes. I feel relaxed (hear/here), as the sun streams down onto my face



Activity 2

Write a descriptive paragraph about an animal that you adore. It can be your pet, or any other animal that you like.

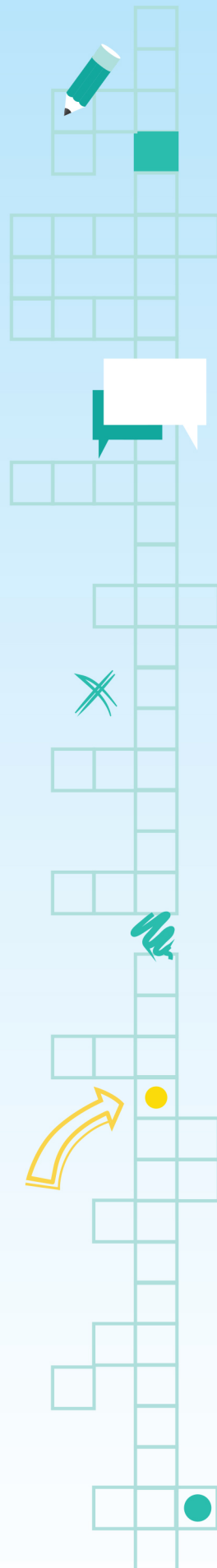
- Use the guidelines to plan a rough draft.
- Read your first draft (plan), and make your corrections.
- Write the final, neat descriptive paragraph on the next page.
- Write a title for your final descriptive paragraph.

Topic sentence – introduce the animal here:

Sentence 2: Write a sentence about what your animal looks like.

Sentence 3: Use another sense – besides sight – to describe your animal.

Sentence 4: Give a reason why you like this animal.





Sentence 5: End off your descriptive paragraph with a descriptive concluding sentence.

The final descriptive paragraph

Teacher Tip



Take the pupils outside. They must sit on their own, and write notes on what they see, smell, touch and hear. You can explain that taste is always a difficult description if one is not describing food. However, one can be creative and 'taste the salty sea air'. Make sure that many adjectives are used to describe the scenery – but not so many that the writing becomes lost in a sea of adjectives. Explain metaphors and similes very briefly.

Pupils can take their notes home, and write a vivid descriptive paragraph about the specific place at school. It is important to emphasise that pupils have to know their topic well; they need to describe what they see and feel; they have to paint a picture with words.