

Ministry of Education
Secondary Engagement Programme
September 2020

WEEK SIX: Lesson two

Subject: English Language (Week 6 Grade:8)

Topic: Composition (Paragraph Writing)

Sub-topic: Describing people

Objectives: After recapitulating previous lesson on paragraph writing, Grade 8 students will correctly:

- (1) Read examples of paragraphs describing people
- (2) Write a descriptive paragraph based on given topics

Concept: the aim of descriptive writing is to present the reader with a vivid picture of what the writer is trying to portray.

CONTENT

RECAPITULATION

Characteristics of descriptive writing

1. Good descriptive writing includes many vivid sensory details that paint a picture and appeals to all of the reader's senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste when appropriate. Descriptive writing may also paint pictures of the feelings the person, place or thing invokes in the writer.
2. Good descriptive writing often makes use of figurative language such as analogies, similes and metaphors to help paint the picture in the reader's mind.
3. Good descriptive writing uses precise language. Use specific adjectives and nouns and strong action verbs to give life to the picture you are painting in the reader's mind.

DESCRIBING A PERSON

NOTE: People do NOT like to feel objectified (made to feel like an object instead of a person), so it's important to always keep physical descriptions very positive.

Here are a few general tips to keep in mind when describing people's appearance:

- **Start with very general descriptions** - Using general descriptions will help you describe someone without having to go into specific details. For example, you can describe someone's appearance by talking about their gender, height, weight, age, hair color, or eye color. However, remember that some people can be sensitive about these descriptions (especially weight and age), so keep this in mind when you need to describe people.

Now let's look at a few positive appearance adjectives to help get you started!

Adjectives for Appearance: Positive

- Gorgeous
- Beautiful
- Pretty
- Handsome
- Attractive
- Nice
- Stunning
- Good-looking
- Cute

Adjectives for Appearance: Neutral and Negative

- Muscular
- Strong
- Slim
- Short
- Tall
- Fat
- Thin
- Obese
- Stout

- Curvy
- Slender
- Petite

How to Describe a Person's Personality

It's important to learn how to describe someone's physical features, but it's even more important to learn how to describe someone's personality. Personalities are complex, making them difficult to put into words. Nonetheless, there are plenty of great ways to describe someone's personality and character traits.

Adjectives for Personality: Positive

- Affectionate
- Ambitious
- Witty
- Thoughtful
- Brave
- Bright
- Sensible
- Charming
- Happy
- Sincere
- Sympathetic
- Open-minded
- Compassionate
- Courageous
- Friendly
- Generous
- Honest
- Proactive
- Polite
- Reliable

Adjectives for Personality: Neutral and Negative

- Quiet
- Aggressive
- Arrogant
- Bossy
- Cruel
- Close-minded
- Dishonest
- Greedy
- Rude
- Selfish
- Unhappy
- Untrustworthy
- Boring

In your description of a person, incorporate the use of figures of speech, this will help you to paint a clear picture of the person you are describing while making your description fun and exciting.

Example

Write a descriptive paragraph of the person you admire.

When asked about the person I admire in the universe, I do not require to look at celebrities or any other big influential names in society. When it comes to me, the person I admire most in the world is my mother. We all have people whom we consider to be highly inspirational and influential to look upon, and in my case, my mother is an excellent example of these characters. She is an extraordinary person in my life because of her enduring strength that I dearly admire, and she is also kind as well as supportive. One thing I most admire about my mother for is her strength, which appears to be resistant throughout hard times. My mother is a single mother, and she has managed to raise three children all by herself, providing us with a good life and education, while still balancing work. For instance, when my brother and I cleared high school, only one of us hoped to join college because of our financial situation, but she worked two jobs to ensure that we enrolled in college. Single mothers across the globe face financial instability where they are forced to engage in other strategies to extend income to take care of their family. I hold great admiration for my mother because of her determination.

My mother has a striking appearance, but behind this, she is very alluring, admirable, and kind. At first, one can conclude that she is a blunt and cold person because of her quiet nature, but after knowing her, she turns out to be a friendly, warm-hearted, gentle, and generous person.

ACTIVITY 1

- Compose a word bank of interesting and descriptive words that you can incorporate in your writing when describing a person (USE AT LEAST 20 WORDS)

ACTIVITY (2)

Write a descriptive paragraph based on any ONE of the topics below:

- (1) My favourite teacher
- (2) My next-door neighbour

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SAMPLE ANSWERS FOR ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1

- Compose a word bank of interesting and descriptive words that you can incorporate in your writing when describing a person (USE AT LEAST 20 WORDS).

Affable — He’s easy to talk to.

Agreeable — He’s enjoyable to talk to.

Amiable — He’s friendly and nice.

Charming — He has a “magic” effect that makes people like him.

Polite — He’s good at saying “please,” “thank you,” etc.

Likeable — He’s easy to like.

Gregarious — He likes being with other people.

Observant — She’s good at noticing different things around her.

Quick-witted — She can think quickly and intelligently.

Patient — She can accept difficult situations without getting angry.

Dynamic — She has a lot of energy and can think creatively.

Bright — She’s smart and intelligent.

Versatile — She can do different things depending on the situation.

Intuitive — She can understand what’s happening using her feelings (not just facts).

Adaptable — She can change depending on the situation.

Dependable — If she says she will do something, she will do it.

Reliable — The same as “dependable”.

Trustworthy — You can trust her to be honest and sincere.

Loyal — She will always be on your side.

ACTIVITY (2)

My favourite teacher

My favourite teacher is none other than Miss Marva Williams. I would describe her as the best teacher I ever had. She is a warm, compassionate person with a zest for life. She is a person who loves going to work each day, who saw the wonder in every student, she is knowledgeable in subject matter with the ability to translate it to young minds. She seems to instinctively know what each student needs at any given point and always finds a way to motivate and inspire her students. A lot of teachers come to my mind when I think of teachers whom I like but Miss Williams is my all-time favourite. She is indeed an exceptional teacher in every aspect that I could think off. Her way of taking classes was a lot different than the others as she used to relate a lot with current examples and had a great sense of humour. This made her classes interactive as well as useful. So far in my school life, I have never met anyone like Miss Marva Williams. She is truly an inspiration.

My Next-door Neighbour

Mister John Brown is my next door neighbour. He is short and stout, his forehead is totally covered with deep wrinkles, which are as uneven as his turbulent life. Bushy grey brows, frowned from time to time, made these wrinkles even deeper, and all this give his face a rather strict expression. His pointy face is framed with short thinning hair, and one could notice a small bald spot on the top of his head. His side whiskers that began on the temples were coming down to an accurate small beard, which he strokes once in a while. It is possible to see a little mole on the outer side of his hazel brown eyes. Generally, Mister John is a friendly man and a peaceful neighbour.