

1 **Description**2 **Scene Description**3 **Types of Description**

- Objective
- Subjective
- Spatial
- Sensory
- Literal
- Figurative

4 **Objective**

- Straightforward
- No bias
- Relates facts
- Doesn't reveal the writer's attitude toward the subject
- Suited to technical subjects and reporting

5 **Subjective**

- Provides personal view
- Creates an impression
- Reflective or introspective
- Suited to memoir, anecdote, and even persuasive writing

6 **Spatial**

- Show the reader where things are located from your perspective.
- Frequent use of prepositional phrases and direction-words
- Need a reminder about prepositions? Visit this the [Chomp-Chomp site](#) for a list of common prepositions.

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7 **Example of Spatial Description**

Billy Ray's Pawn Shop and Lawn Mower Repair looked like a burial ground for country auction rejects. The blazing, red, diesel fuel tanks beamed in front of the station, looking like cheap lipstick against the pallid, wrinkled texture of the parking lot sand. The yard, not much larger than the end zone at General G. Patton High School on the north end of town, was framed with a rusted metallic hedge of lawn mowers, banana seat bicycles, and corroded oil drums. It wasn't a calico frame of rusted parts, but rather an orchestra of unwanted machinery that Billy Ray had arranged into sections. The yellow-tanked mowers rested silently at the right of the diesel fuel. Once red, now faded orange, mowers stood at attention to the left. The oil barrels, jaded and pierced with holes, bellared like chimes when the wind was right. The bikes rested sporadically throughout the lot. In the middle of it all was the office, a faded, steel roof supported by cheap two-by-fours and zebra paneling. Billy Ray was at home, usually, five blocks east of town on Kennel Road.


8 **Sensory**

- Let the reader see, smell, hear, taste, and feel the details of the surroundings.

9 **Example of Sensory Description**

The thick, burnt scent of roasted coffee tickled the tip of my nose just seconds before the old, faithful alarm blared a distorted top-forty through its tiny top

speaker. Wiping away the grit of last night's sleep, the starch white sunlight blinded me momentarily as I slung my arm like an elephant trunk along the top of the alarm, searching for the snooze button. While stretching hands and feet to the four posts of my bed, my eyes opened after several watery blinks. I crawled out of the comforter, edging awkwardly like a butterfly from a cocoon, swinging my legs over the side of the bed. The dusty pebbles on the chilled, wood floor sent ripples spiraling from my ankles to the nape of my neck when my feet hit the floor. Grabbing the apricot, terry-cloth robe, recently bathed in fabric softener and October wind, I knotted it tightly at my waist like a prestigious coat of armor and headed downstairs to battle the morning.

10  **Literal Description**

- In literal descriptions the words mean exactly what they say in the plainest and most obvious sense.

11  **Figurative Description**

- Whenever you describe something by comparing it with something else, you are using figurative language. It's the use of any language that goes beyond the literal meaning of words in order to furnish new effects or fresh insights into an idea or a subject.
- Simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and allusion are examples of common figures of speech.

12  **Final Notes about Description**

- Experiment with various types of description when describing a setting.
- Use enough description to immerse the reader, but don't bombard the reader with unneeded details.
- Learn to weigh descriptive details for their worth and to cut excess material.
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