

Describing a scene

1 Getting ideas for writing

A Look at the picture and ask your Classmate these questions. Use the Phrases in the box below to help you.

- Where are they?
- How is the weather?
- What are they doing?
- Why are they doing it?



Language for guessing

- I suppose (that)...
- I reckon...
- I would say that....
- they might be/ could be/must be
- I bet....
- could they be....?

B Why is it an important skill to be able to describe a scene? It is useful for:
telling friends and family about your life
Witness statements for the police or medical staff
Advertising and persuading
using a variety of adjectives and tenses
being more creative
Can you think of any other reasons?

2 Describing people, places and things

a Close your eyes and imagine you are in another country. **What can you see?**

b Now write down what you saw. Include how you felt, the weather, the time of day, any smells, what people were doing and how they felt.

c Get into groups of 3-4

d Read your stories **out loud** to the other people in your group

e Decide as a group which would be the best piece of writing for a TRAVEL GUIDE. Be prepared to say why and give examples of good writing from the text.

Read texts A and B below. Which one is more interesting? Why?

A

Looking around him he felt was in the middle of an ancient world. There were strange noises, interesting smells and a blazing heat from the sun, high in the sky. He could see small, brown buildings opposite him and thought of the people inside making lunch or working. In front of him was a multitude of people dressed in unusual, colourful robes and hats, busy walking along the road, talking loudly. The shops were packed and there were long queues outside the restaurants. The road was full of traffic going down the street. There were tired-looking horses and donkeys with many passengers in their carts. On the corner there was a decrepit old woman in a black dress selling oranges and grapes. People walked past her without stopping to buy her fruit.

B

He looked around and thought he was in an old world. There were noises, smells and hot sun. He saw some buildings and thought of the people in them making lunch or working. There were lots of people wearing weird clothes. They walked on the road and talked loudly. The shops were busy. There were long queues out of the restaurants. The road had a lot of traffic. There were tired horses and donkeys with many passengers. There was an old woman in a black dress. She was selling fruit. People walked past but didn't buy her fruit.

Discuss the texts in your group and think of reasons why one text is better than the other.

Answer: Text A- it uses a greater range of descriptive words and phrases

Vocabulary- find words and phrases in text A that mean:

- Very old- ancient
- In bad condition-
- Burn strongly-
- Long, loose clothes-
- A large number-
- Full (of people)-
- Strange-

Language work

1 Look at text A again and underline any examples of descriptions using this pattern: *description + noun*

- *Example- ancient world*

2 Circle any examples of descriptions using this pattern: *noun + description*

- *Example- people making lunch*

3 What kind of words give information before a noun?

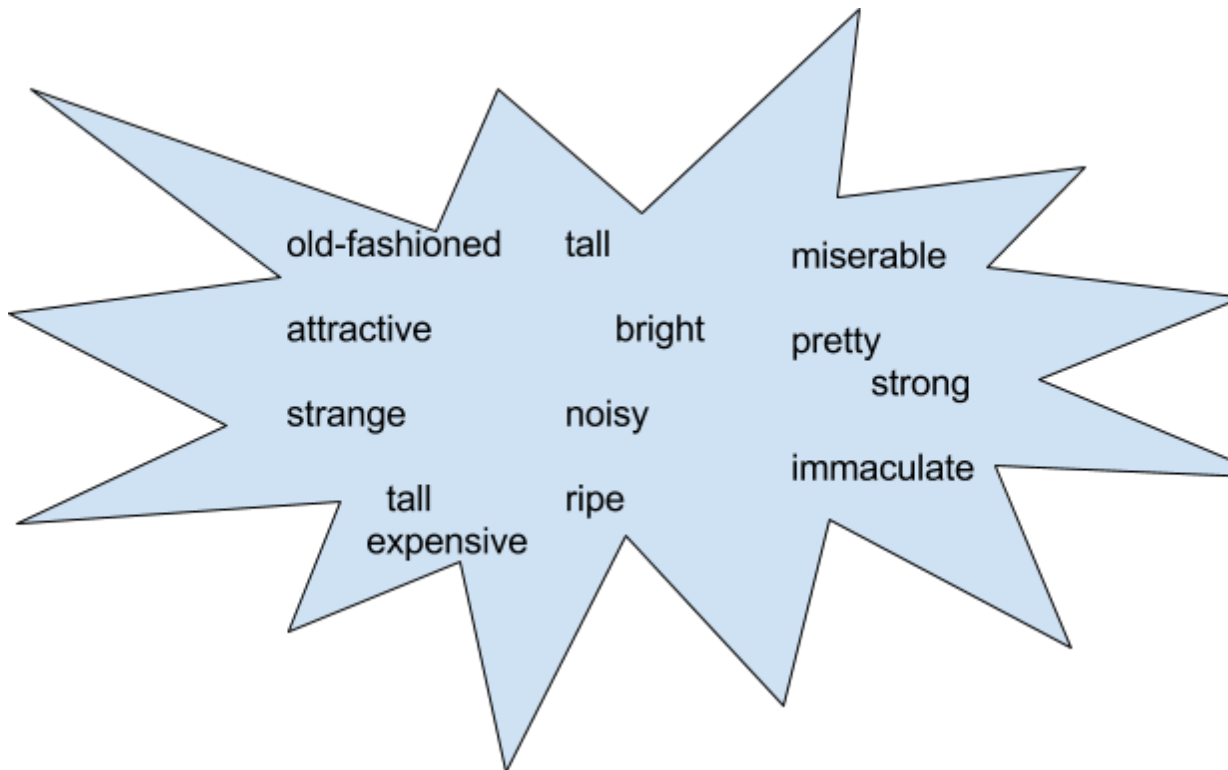
What kind of words can introduce information after a noun?

4 Which prepositions are used in text A?



3 Improving your description

a Look at the adjectives below. Ask your partner what they mean.



Make text B more interesting by using the adjectives. You can use more than one each time.

b In your group edit the text you chose for the travel guide. **Make it more interesting and persuade people to visit the place.**

Include:

- Appropriate prepositions
- Description + noun
- Noun + description

When you have finished pin it on the wall for everyone to read!

Phrases to use when editing your text- *suggesting*

- Why don't we put....there
- We need to change...
- I think it should be....instead
- How about...(v+ing)
- we need to get rid of....

Phrases to use when editing your text-*agreeing/disagreeing*

- Yes, that would be worth trying
- I'm not sure about that
- Good idea, but....
- Sounds good
- I can see one or two problems with that

ESOL Writing

