

## Writing Basics → Painting a Word Picture

Level: Elementary School

*Descriptive writing helps your readers understand your meaning through details. Good descriptive writing lets your readers picture and even feel what you are writing about. One way to do that is to use **sensory language** -- words or phrases that relate to each of your five senses.*

Practice brainstorming about a topic or a scene. Write words or phrases that relate to the topic and your five senses. Then select the two or three that you feel are the most descriptive and/or interesting -- ie. the ones that would paint the best word picture in your reader's mind. (The first one is done for you to use an example.)

### 1. Topic: Waiting for a train

See: mice on the tracks, red coat, shiny shoes, ticket on ground, grime

Hear: newspapers rustling, child crying, garbled loudspeaker announcements

Touch: hard wooden bench, gum stuck to shoe, cold metal ramp

Taste: popcorn, sour air, soda

Smell: garbage, roasting nuts, stale coffee

### 2. Topic/Scene: A hot summer day

See: \_\_\_\_\_

Hear: \_\_\_\_\_

Touch: \_\_\_\_\_

Taste: \_\_\_\_\_

Smell: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Topic/Scene: The city (or the country if you are not familiar with a city)

See: \_\_\_\_\_

Hear: \_\_\_\_\_

Touch: \_\_\_\_\_

Taste: \_\_\_\_\_

Smell: \_\_\_\_\_

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