

### The Description of a Person

*Describing a person* is different from describing a place or a thing. The writer's purpose is to capture the essence of a person by going beyond physical characteristics. The important parts of a description of a person are appearance, background, personality, activities, and interests.

Here, we present a physical description that reveal inner qualities as well. A description of a person may almost make the readers think that they know that person. When we are describing a person, a progressive arrangement is often the most useful. We can move from the most to least telling feature, or move from least to most, and on progressively to the next important feature.

The following are some useful words and phrases to describe a person:

#### Facial Expressions

scowl  
frown  
smirk  
worried  
pained  
vivacious  
peaceful

#### Facial Shapes

round  
broad  
narrow  
heart-shaped  
moon-shaped  
angular  
oval

#### Eyes

beady  
smiling  
snapping  
flashing  
empty  
staring  
bulging

#### Voice

booming  
rasping  
squeaky  
harsh  
growling  
deep  
melodious

#### My Grandmother

My grandmother is kind and generous. She always makes people feel good. One time I picked all the roses in her garden. She wasn't even mad then. She thanked me for the beautiful bouquet. Grandmother also gives food to poor people. She never makes them feel bad about taking it. She makes them feel good, just as she made me feel good when I picked all the roses. I will always remember my grandmother's kindness and generosity.

### Mrs. Robinson

Mrs. Robinson, my first grade teacher, was an important person in my life. I was only six years old, but she taught me a valuable life lesson. In the schools in my country, children usually learn to print before they learn to write in cursive script (like handwriting). Mrs. Robinson didn't believe in printing. She thought it was a waste of time. She taught us to write in cursive script from the first day. At first it was hard, and she made us practice a lot. That made me angry because I wasn't very good at it. I remember filling entire pages just with capital Os. I didn't think I could ever learn to write beautifully, but Mrs. Robinson was patient with me and told me to keep trying. At the end of the year, I felt very grown up because I could write in cursive script. I was proud of my new skill. Mrs. Robinson was important to me because she taught me the value of hard work.

### Describing an object

Read the following passage which describes the tea-set in the picture below. We shall have to imagine the colours.



The china crockery here includes a large plate in which one may serve snacks. The plate is curved up slightly at the rim. It has a golden border, and a number of circles are painted at some distance from the rim. At the centre is a picture of a red rose with buds and green leaves all around it. The tea-pot has a narrow bottom, but curves outward towards the centre. It has a spout and a handle like a triangle. There are designs in bas-relief along the borders of the lid and the pot. The milk-pot has a concave shape with a gently curved lip. There is also a convex bowl for sugar and a tea-cup in a saucer. All of them have the same floral design. The background colour of the set is light pink.

One of the ugliest creatures in literature is the monster in the novel *Frankenstein, The Modern Prometheus*, which was written by Mary Shelley in the nineteenth century. The monster, which was created by Victor Frankenstein when he was a student at a university, has flowing lustrous black hair. The monster has pearly white teeth. These fine features form a horrid contrast with his other features. He has yellow skin that barely covers his facial muscles. His complexion is shrivelled. He has hideous, watery, almost colorless eyes that seem to be almost the same color as the sockets that they are set in. Even uglier, perhaps, are his lips, which are straight and black.

**My Grandfather**

1 <sup>S</sup> My <sup>V</sup> grandfather is old in years but young in spirit. 2 Every day, <sup>S</sup> he <sup>V</sup> swims a mile and <sup>V</sup> works in his garden. 3 He and my grandmother have four children and ten grandchildren. 4 My grandfather loves parties and invites our entire family to his house for a big dinner on his birthday. 5 All 20 of us eat and tell stories half the night. 6 My grandfather never gets tired and is always the last to go to bed. 7 On his last birthday, my brothers and I gave him a present. 8 We put our money together and bought him a video game system. 9 Now he invites us to his house every weekend to play video games with him. 10 My grandfather never seems old to me.



### Directions

Left below down into across  
 right center above past a head  
 up through behind toward away from  
 against around in front of in back of backward

### Distance

first foreground background halfway approximately  
 last leading to between distant on the edge of

beyond next to close to long about ten miles  
 for near short in the center of

### Area of Space

Outside inside interior exterior park  
 lawn garden field plain hillside  
 hall stage alley

The following are useful adjectives for descriptive writing:

### For sight

Size : big, small, medium-sized, huge, tiny, gigantic, tall, short, thick, etc.

Shape : round, square, triangular, rectangular, conical, oval, linear, dotted.

Color : red, white, brown, blue, green, orange, pink, violet, gold, silver, and so forth.

### For the other senses

Sound : loud, soft, harmonious, harsh, pleasant, unpleasant, groan.

Taste : sweet, sour, salty, bitter, delicious, tasty, tasteless, cool, warm.

Touch : rough, smooth, slippery, hard, sunny, squeeze, hot.

Smell : strong, fragrant, scented, sharp, hard.