

## Writing /Module (2) / Unit 3

### Writing skills: Using Rhetorical Devices

#### 1. Simile: a comparison using like or as.

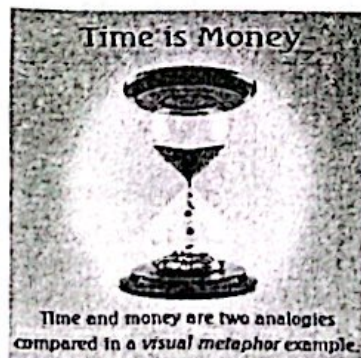
##### Examples:

- Busy as a bee.
- Clean as a whistle.
- Brave as a lion.
- He stood out like a sore thumb.
- It was as easy as shooting fish in a barrel.
- My mouth was as dry as a bone.
- It was as funny as a barrel of monkeys.
- They fought like cats and dogs.
- It was like watching grass grow.

#### 2. Metaphor: figure of speech comparing two different things.

##### Examples:

- The world is my oyster.
- You are a couch potato.
- Time is money.
- He has a heart of stone.
- America is a melting pot.
- You are my sunshine.



3. **Onomatopoeia**: a word that imitates the sound it represents.

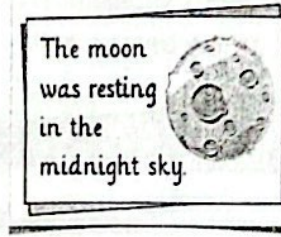
**Examples:**

- The burning wood hissed and crackled.
- The words: buzz, beep, whirr, click, whoosh, swish, zap, zing, ping, clang, bong, hum, boom, munch, gobble, crunch, smash, wham, quack, meow, oink, and tweet.

4. **Personification**: attributing human qualities to something non-human, acting as an example of.

**Examples:**

- Opportunity knocked on the door.
- The sun greeted me this morning.
- The sky was full of dancing stars.
- The vines wove their fingers together to form a braid.
- The radio stopped singing and stared at me.
- The sun played hide and seek with the clouds.



5. **Sensory Descriptions**: include sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. Writers employ the five senses to engage a reader's interest.

**Example:**

Upon entering the grocery store, I headed directly for the flower department, where I spotted *yellow tulips*. As I tenderly rested the tulips in my *rusty shopping cart*, I caught a whiff of *minty dried eucalyptus*, so I added the *fragrant forest green bouquet* of eucalyptus to my cart.

Write the rhetorical device used next to each of the following.

1. Walking desks took over the town. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The words were music to her ears. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The wind moaned and screeched. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Moon dances around my fear. \_\_\_\_\_
5. His belly shook like a bowl full of jelly. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The librarian is a beast if you mess up her books. \_\_\_\_\_

## Did you provide sensory details?



### Check

**Smells** that are in the air (the aroma of freshly brewed coffee)

**Sounds** (laughing people, uplifting music)

**Sights** ("people dressed in colorful dresses")

**Touch** ("The texture of silky bags sold there were so smooth.")

**Taste:** sweet, sour, salty, bitter, tart ("drink stalls selling fresh coconut juice, orange juice or iced water.")

## How should you write your description?

If there's one thing you should remember as you write your descriptive essay, it's the famous saying: **show don't tell**. But what's the difference between showing and telling?

Consider these two simple examples:

- I grew tired after dinner.
- As I leaned back and rested my head against the top of the chair, my eyelids began to feel heavy, and the edges of the empty plate in front of me blurred with the white tablecloth.

The first sentence **tells** readers that you grew tired after dinner. The second sentence **shows** readers that you grew tired. The most effective descriptive essays are loaded with such **showing** because they enable readers to imagine or experience something for themselves.

As you write your descriptive essay, the best way to create a vivid experience for your readers is to **focus on the five senses**.

- sight
- sound
- smell
- touch
- taste
- When you focus your descriptions on the senses, you provide vivid and specific details that **show** your readers rather than **tell** your readers what you are describing.

## - Descriptive Essay

What is the difference between descriptive essay and discursive essay?

-Discursive essay: discusses a certain topic or issue.

1. Descriptive essays describe an object, a person, a place, an experience, a situation, etc.
2. Descriptive essays involve clear writing and a good understanding of the audience for who one is writing.
3. Descriptive essays include:

- Introduction and personal view point

-Body: Describe some aspects of the essay topic, dividing the material between paragraphs, depending on your focus

-more detailed descriptions

-rhetorical devices (simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia)

-language for prediction

- Conclusion and personal view point

## Sample Descriptive Essay

### Worldwide transport in the future

It is of course difficult to say exactly what transportation will look like in the future, because of the infrastructural changes that are happening constantly at the moment. To me, it seems that transport may well have changed a lot in one hundred years' time.

Perhaps there will be no more private transport by 2115 CE. It is possible that public transport will have improved so much that no one will need their own cars. We might all be zooming around in ecologically-sound electric buses and trams that will take us to our destinations smoothly!

In order to get to other countries, we will be taking airships, which will be like aeroplanes but with more facilities available. It will be possible to travel to the other side of the world in much less time, because these airships will race around at a far greater velocity.

Finally, modes of transport are always changing, depending on many different factors, but one thing is certain; we will still be travelling the whole world! We might even be able to experience weightlessness by travelling to space!

## *Plan your descriptive essay as follows:*

**Introduction:** Make a general statement, then state your opinion.

**Body:** Describe some aspects of the essay topic, dividing the material between paragraphs, depending on your focus.

**Conclusion:** Summarise your descriptions and relate them back to the introduction.

## *Descriptive essays include:*

- introduction and personal viewpoint
- conclusion and personal viewpoint
- more detailed descriptions
- simile
- language for prediction

## Writing Strategies

### - When writing a single paragraph

When you are writing a single paragraph, consider the following:

- conciseness – how you can get your point across within the word limit;
- clarity – when you re-read what you have written, does it say what you intended?

### - When writing a descriptive essay

Describing:

Descriptions need to be accurate and accessible to the reader.

- Use rhetorical devices
- Be specific – give concrete examples in your descriptions (describe objects, people, etc.)
- Keep your sentences neat and tidy – use complex sentences if you like, but check that they make sense.