

SUBJECT: ENGLISH STUDIES

CLASS. : JSS ONE.

TOPIC : DESCRIPTIVE WRITING.

Descriptive writing is a kind of writing that gives details about what something or someone is like. It describes persons, animals, places, events. A descriptive writing gives clear and adequate details about what is being described. The writer is expected to describe the way an object, person, place or event appears.

In order to describe well, you should make use of details that appeal to the senses; sense of smell, sight, taste, touch, etc. The details help the reader to understand what is being described.

HINTS TO WRITING A GOOD DESCRIPTION.

- Picture what you want to describe.
- From your memory, draw a sketch of what you want to describe.
- Use descriptive words and phrases, similes, metaphors etc. to make a vivid and memorable description.
- Have your reader in mind as you describe. Describe in a manner that your reader will get a good picture of what is being described.

SAMPLE COMPOSITION.

MY BEST TEACHER.

There are about about thirty hardworking teachers in my school, but the best out of them all is Mrs Julian Nelson. Mrs J.N as the students fondly call her is my Mathematics teacher. I love this teacher so much because of her many outstanding qualities.

Mrs Nelson is dark in complexion and has a round shaped face with little smiling eyes. She is slim and of average height. She has dark and long hair. She does not wear make-up and she dresses modestly.

My best teacher teaches her subject very well and she makes sure that everyone understands her. Her calm nature and good heart have made all the students love Mathematics. She has of breaking down every topic in a way that it easy to understand.

Mrs Nelson is a highly dedicated and disciplined teacher. She never misses her lessons and she is always punctual to class. She advices us to work hard and see Mathematics as a very simple subject. She also encourages us to be good children and to do everything within our power to attain success.

My best teacher has her likes and dislikes. She hates laziness. She fishes out the lazy ones in the class and gives them extra work to do. She also likes neatness. She encourages us to dress properly and to keep our clothes neat at all times. She likes intelligent and hardworking students. She encourages us to answer questions in her class by rewarding anyone who answers her question correctly. Those who are weak in her subject she gives more attention to during her spare time. In fact, she carries everybody along.

Mrs Nelson is and will remain my best teacher because of her exceptional qualities and the great impact she has made on my life.

TOPIC: ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VERB (VOICE).TOPIC: ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VERB (VOICE).

A verb is in the active form when the subject performs the action. That is, the verb shows what something or someone does. The active voice is used to show the interest in the subject. Formula for active voice: subject+verb+ object. Examples:

The President delivered a speech.

The horse drinks water. (In these sentences, the President and the horse performed the actions.).

Passive Voice: it is used to talk about the people or things that the action. It is used to show the interest in the object. Passives are not made from verbs that do not have objects. Formula for passive voice: subject (object of the active voice) + BE+ past participle+ by+ object (subject of the active voice). Examples:

The speech **was delivered** by the President.

Water **is drunk** by the horse.

CHANGING ACTIVE VERBS TO PASSIVE IN DIFFERENT TENSES

Simple Present Tense: is/ are+ past participle. Examples:

Active: The teacher **teaches** French.

Passive: French **is taught** by the teacher.

Active: The man **repairs** umbrellas.

Passive: Umbrellas **are repaired** by the man.

Present Continuous Tense: is/ are+ being+ participle. Examples:

Active: The boy **is writing** a letter.

Passive: A letter **is being written** by the boy.

Active: The little boy **is breaking** the bottles.

Passive: The bottles **are being broken** by the little boy.

Present Perfect Tense: has/ have+ being+ participle. Examples:

Active: The boy **has written** the letter.

Passive: The letter **has been written** by the boy.

Active: The hunter **has killed** the lions.

The lions **have been killed** the hunter.

Simple Past Tense: was/ were+ participle. Examples:

Active: My father **bought** a new car.

Passive: A new car **was bought** by my father.

Active: I **saw** some monkeys.

Passive: Some monkeys **were seen** by me.

Present Continuous Tense: was/ were+ being+ participle. Examples:

Active: I **was playing** a piano.

Passive: A piano was **being played** by me.

Active: The girl **was painting** some pictures.

Passive: Some pictures **were being painted** by me.

Past Perfect Tense: had+ been+ participle. Examples:

Active: We **had completed** the work.

Passive: The work **had been completed** by us.

Simple Future Tense: will/ shall+ be+ participle. Example:

Active: Mary **will prepare** the food.

Passive: The food **will be prepared** by Mary.

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TOPIC : TENSES.

Tense is any form of the verb used to show time of an action. Tenses demonstrate time of an action in a sentence. Verbs change their forms according to tenses.

There are three main types of tenses. They are;

- 1) Present Tense
- 2) Past Tense
- 3) Future Tense.

Each of these types of tenses have four different forms.

PRESENT TENSE

The present tense has these forms:

- Simple Present Tense
- Present Progressive (continuous Tense) Tense.
- Present Perfect Tense.
- Present Perfect Progressive.

THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE.

This is used to show action which happens always, regularly, normally, usually, naturally, sometimes,e.t.c. The simple present tense has two forms: the singular form and the plural form.

The singular form takes 's' or'es' when the subject is singular or these pronouns : he/she/ it. E.g. - He likes football.

She celebrates her birthday every year.

____The plural form is the same as the base form. It does not take ' s' or ' es'. It is used with plural subject or these pronouns: I, you, we, and they. Examples:

The girls celebrate their birthday every year.

We like football.

USES OF THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE.

1. For general truth and things that are always true. E.g.
 - (i) Mrs Jane teaches us Biology.
 - (ii) Dogs bark at strangers.

(iii) The sun rises in the east.

2. For instructions and directions:

(i) Open the door.

(ii) Wash your hands regularly.

3. For habitual actions:

(i) He smokes everyday.

(ii) I brush my teeth twice daily.

4. For repeated actions:

(i) I wake up early in the morning.

(ii) The old man plays chess every evening.

(iii) Every Saturday, I clean our house while my sister washes our clothes.

The present tense can be used in positive and negative statements and in questions.

Positive:.. She works hard.

Negative: She doesn't work hard.

Question: Does she work hard?

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

It is used to indicate an action going on now (ongoing action). It is used for action going on at the moment, right now etc. It has this structure: subject+ am/ is/ are + verb+ ing.....

Examples:

i) I am going to my sister's house.

ii) The children are playing with the their toys.

iii) Sandra is painting a picture.

It can also be used in the affirmative, negative and for interrogation.

Affirmative: They are working now.

Negative:.. They are not working now.

Question:.. Are they working now

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE.

This tense is used when one intends to indicate:

- i) an action that occurred at an indefinite time in the past and has its effect on the subject
- ii) an action that occurred many times and has the possibility to occur in the present or future
- iii) an action that began in the past and is still going on in the present. The structure of the present perfect tense is: subject+has/ have+ verb in the past participle form+.....

Examples:

Grace has read the book.(no indicated time).

I have seen this movie many times.(occurred many times in the past).

He has lived in this town for ten years.(still going on).

The girls have not seen their mother lately.

Have they gone home?

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE : This is used to indicate an action that began in the past and is still happening in the present. Both the present perfect tense and the present perfect Continuous tense can be used to show this type of action. The structure is: subject+have/ has + been + verb+ ing+.....

Examples:i) The girl has been reading for several hours.

ii) The baby has been sleeping since morning.

iii). We have been living together for six years.

iv). They have been working in that shop for a long time.

THE PAST TENSE.

The past tense also has four forms. They are:

- ★ Simple Past Tense
- ★ Past Continuous Tense.
- ★ Past Perfect Tense.
- ★ Past Perfect Continuous Tense.

Simple Past Tense: This tense is used to talk about an action which was completed at a specific point in .time in the past. It is mostly used with adverbs like: yesterday, last week, few days ago, long time ago, last year,etc. Examples:

I. The supervisors visited our school last week.

- II. I met my old friend in the supermarket.
- III. They lived in the city a long time ago.
- IV. She did not finish her homework.
- V. Did you work hard?

Past Continuous Tense : It is used to talk about actions or events that were going on at a particular moment in the past. Examples:

- I. The boys were fighting in the classroom.
- II. My mother was cooking when I came home.
- III. When the announcement was made, I was sleeping.
- IV. The girl was in the hostel while others were writing a test.

Past Perfect Tense : This is used to talk about an action that happened before another action in the past. There are usually two completed actions in sentence; one happened before the other. The first action is expressed in the past perfect tense while the second is expressed in the simple past tense. Examples:

- I. I had sent the email before he came back to the office.
- II. Before I knew it, she had run out of the door.
- III. She could have fared better if her mother had not died.
- IV. The baby slept after I had fed him.

Past Perfect Continuous Tense: This is used to talk about an action that started in the past, continued up to some time and stopped in the past. Examples:

- I. The family had been living in the city since 1970 before they moved to the village.
- II. We had been watching a movie since morning.
- III. I had been calling him for two hours.
- IV. I had been staying at home since Monday.

SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE.

This tense is used to indicate an action that will happen in the future. Examples:

- I. We shall visit the zoo next week.
- II. She will write the memo after lunch.
- III. We shall move to another city soon.

IV. My father will become the next governor of our state.

FOLKTALES

Folktales are traditional fictional stories which focus on various issues in life. These stories are not true life stories but are told out of one's imagination in order to address issues happening in our lives and environment. Folktales teach good morals. Folktales have humans, spirits, animals, etc. as characters.

Folktales exist in two forms: oral and written folktales.

- ❖ Oral folktales are presented orally and are handed down orally from generation to generation.
- ❖ Written folktales are the ones written down in books.

TYPES OF FOLKTALES.

1. African Folktales: African folktales originate in Africa. They are stories which have been told from early times until today. Nobody knows their origin and how they came to be but they are handed down from generation to generation. They centre on themes such as greed, selfishness, pride, wickedness, disobedience etc. They usually have animal characters that speak and behave like human beings. African folktales are usually told at moonlit nights in order to relax after a day's hard work. They teach moral lessons. Examples:

- I. The dog and the tortoise.
- II. The tortoise and the birds.
- III. The disobedient child.

2. Non- African Folktales: These are folk stories told in other continents apart from Africa. They are told for entertainment and for passing on messages.

FEATURES OF FOLKTALES.

Folktales have the following features:

- I. Didactic: This means that Folktales teach moral lessons both children and adults. These lessons help mould characters.

II. Magical: In folktales, characters perform strange acts that may be impossible in real life. Examples: animals talking and behaving like human beings, animals or spirits getting to human beings.

III. Entertaining: Folktales entertain and amuse people. They are used for relaxation.

ARTICLES.

Articles are words placed before a noun to show which thing you mean. They are called determiners; they determine the standard of nouns. There are two types of articles:

I. indefinite articles-- a and an

II. definite article-- the.

'A' and 'an' are called indefinite articles because they do not point to any particular noun.

They make the noun something general and indefinite. Example:

He promised to buy **a** car for me.

Give me **an** egg.

The use of 'a' and 'an' in the above sentences show that it can be any kind of car or egg.

The possibility is open.

'The' makes the noun something particular and specific. It points to a particular noun.

Example:

Give **me** the cap.

The man has come. (Here, both the speaker and the listener are aware of the 'cap' and the 'man').

RULES OF USING THE ARTICLES.

Each of the articles has different uses in different situations.

USING INDEFINITE ARTICLES

1. There's always an article before a common noun in the singular form. E.g.

i) He bought **a** car.

ii) My sister gave me **an** umbrella.

2. The use of either 'a' or 'an' is determined by sound. 'A' is used before a noun that begins with a consonant sound. E.g. a car, a box, a house, a teacher, a school etc. It is also used before a noun that begins with a vowel sound which sounds like a consonant.

Example: a university, a uniform, a one million naira project, a one-man squad.

'An' is used before a noun that begins with a vowel sound. E.g.: an office, an idiot, an insect, an envelope, an onion, an appointment etc. It is also used before a noun that begins with silent 'h'. E.g. an hour, an honour, an heir.

3. 'A' or 'an' can be used to make a proper noun a common noun. E.g.

I) He believes he is **a** Shakespeare.

II) Are you **an** Australian?

4. Indefinite articles come before descriptive adjectives. Examples:

I) He is **a** quiet boy.

II) This is **a** beautiful house.

III) I read **an** interesting story.

USING THE DEFINITE ARTICLE.

1. 'The' is used to indicate a particular person (s) or thing(s) in the case of common nouns that is already known. Examples:

I) **The** man is running.

II) This is **the** girl I told you about.

III) I have given her **the** uniform.

IV) Ifeoma goes to a convent school. **The** school is in Asaba.

2. 'The' is sometimes used to generalise a whole group or whole class of something or people, that is, a collection of something or people. Examples:

I) **The** Igbos are industrious.

II) He helps **the** blind in his town.

III) This programme is for **the** youth.

IV) **The** poor are not always dishonest.

3. It is used before a noun that is only one of its kind. Examples: the sun, the moon, the earth, etc

The moon is shining brighter tonight.

4. 'The' Is also used before comparatives and superlatives. E.g.

I) **The** earlier you pay your fees, **the** better for you.

II) This is **the** most brilliant idea.

III) **The** harder you work, **the** more successful you become.

IV) Grace is **the** most intelligent girl in my class.

WHERE 'THE' IS NOT USED.

- Names of continents: Africa, Asia, Europe etc.
- Names of countries: Nigeria, Ghana, England etc.
- Names of streets: Zik's Avenue, Bright street, etc.
- Names of languages: English, Spanish, French etc.
- Names of sports: Football, basketball, cricket, etc.
- Names of subjects: Mathematics, Biology, Civic Education etc.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS.

MYTH.

A myth is an ancient story that explains the beliefs of our forefathers about the existence of certain things in the world. These stories were created to explain how some things in the world began to exist. Through myths, people explain their beliefs in the existence of God, the creation of the world, life and death, the origin of fire etc. These stories have been passed from generation to generation.

There are African and non- African myths.

African myths reflect the people's beliefs and values. In Nigeria, each ethnic group has its own myth. For example; The Igbos have their myth about Ogbanje, Amadioha, the origin of death the Fulanis have their creation story etc. These myths, until modern times, were passed on from generation to generation by words of mouth.

Non- African myths are shared in non- African countries. They serve the same purpose as the African myths which is to provide answers to some questions about world. E.g, The story of Oedipus, The mist of Avalon, etc.

LEGENDS.

These are old well-known stories of the heroic, brave, and courageous acts of people of old. The stories are usually presented as history and are passed down from generation to generation. The characters may be humans, spirits, and objects such as streams, hills, rocks, etc. The heroic deeds of such characters make their people to worship them as gods. Example;

There are also African and non- African Legends.

African Legends include: Sango of Oyo, Moremi of Ife, Osun river in Oshogbo, Ojadili The great wrestler.

FEATURES OF MYTHS AND LEGENDS.

1. Magical: Myths and legends appear to be magical because their characters do what seems humanly impossible and unbelievable.
2. Superstitious: Myths and legends have elements of superstition in them because some things in them are believed based on old ideas.
3. Supernatural: Some acts in Myths and legends cannot be explained by natural laws. They always involve the powers of gods and magic.

DIPHTHONG

- Diphthong is a vowel sound in which the tongue changes position to produce the sound of 2 vowels.
- There are 8 diphthongs commonly used in English.

aw	au	ew	oo
straw	haul	brew	food
claw	fault	chew	room
law	vault	blew	soon
thaw	pauper	cashew	zoo
hawk	author	stew	taboo
Saw	cause	few	kazoo
draw	pause	dew	bamboo
crawl	applause	drew	shampoo
oi	oy	ow	ou
boil	boy	cow	out
point	toy	how	house
coin	coy	bow	found
broil	joy	growl	round
spoil	soy	down	cloud
noise	oyster	brown	loud
oil	decoy	plow	ouch
join	enjoy	flower	caught