

Descriptive Exercises

For each general word, write two specific words that convey a better idea or image.

Example: Noise: crash, clang

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|
| 1. Pretty | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Fun | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Nice | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Went | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Said | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Looked | _____ | _____ |

Figurative language, such as similes and metaphors, improve writing by offering vivid comparisons. In the following sentences, underline the figurative language.

1. After doing her chores, Karen exploded out of the kitchen like a Fourth of July firecracker.
2. One club member spoke for two hours, turning the crowd of house cats into raging lions.
3. The afternoon light entered the room like a shy visitor.
4. Japan is a necklace of islands.
5. The sunset was a treasure chest of gold in the middle of the meadow.
6. The child stood like a lost puppy in the middle of the street.
7. The old man walked slowly and heavily, like a pendulum of a grandfather clock.
8. We settled down like a couple of walruses on a rock.
9. Her bedroom was a pigsty.
10. The hard rain fell like marbles from the sky.

Find the sensory details in the following paragraph and underline them.

Then, in the evening, he stood in the doorway of his house and looked across the land. It was his land, laying loose and fresh from the winter's freezing, ready for planting. It was fully spring and, in the shallow pool, the frogs croaked drowsily. The bamboo in the corner of the

house swayed slowly under a gentle night wind. Through the twilight, he could see dimly the fringe of trees, budded most delicately pin, and willow trees thrusting forth tender green leaves.

Write a sentence using figurative language (a simile or metaphor, not a cliché) to describe the subject given below.

1. A starry sky

2. Autumn trees

3. A snowfall

4. Winning a championship game

5. Sunrise

6. A funny laugh
