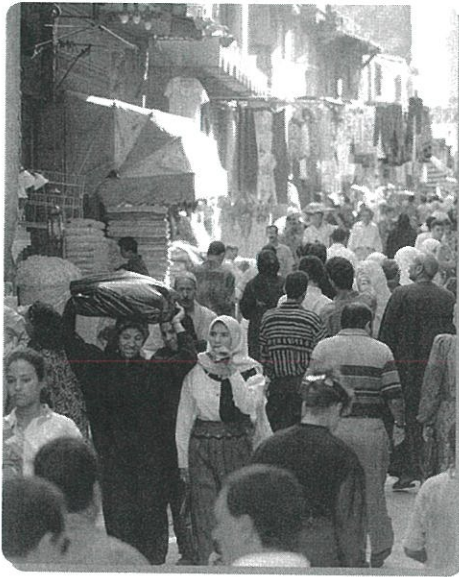


Part 1 Before You Write

Exploring Ideas

1 Describing Scenes Look at the photos of streets below, and choose one of them to describe. Write as much as you can in 10 minutes. Answer the following questions:

1. What is happening on the street?
2. Would you like to live in this neighborhood? Why or why not?
3. How is the street similar to or different from the street where you live?



▲ A street in Cairo



▲ A street in Berlin



2 Sharing Your Ideas Form a small group with other students who wrote about the same photo you did. Share and discuss what you wrote. Did you notice the same things in the photo? Did you have the same opinion of the scene?

Strategy

Writing About Sense Details and Feelings

In this chapter you are going to write a descriptive paragraph about where you live: your neighborhood, your street, your dormitory, your apartment or house, or your room. A good description includes *sense details*: the things you can see, hear, touch, taste, and smell.



What Do You Think?

Classifying Sense Details

Work with a partner, and test your knowledge of the adjectives below. Put each adjective in the correct category. (Note: Some might fit into more than one category.) Then add some adjectives of your own to each category.

bitter cramped noisy salty smooth
bright foul rotten soft spicy
colorful gloomy rough sour

See	Hear	Smell	Taste	Touch
	<i>noisy</i>			

3 Choosing a Topic Write the name of the place you are going to describe in your descriptive paragraph.

4 Listing Details Make a list of sense details for the place you are going to describe. Use noun phrases and adjectives.

1. What I can see:

colorful piles of vegetables

2. What I can hear:

3. What I can touch:

4. What I can taste (optional):

5. What I can smell (optional):

5 Describing Feelings In your descriptive paragraph, you will include the feelings and opinions you have about the place you describe. Write a few notes about how you feel about the place you describe. Also write about why you feel the way you do.

Example *My bedroom makes me feel relaxed and calm.*



6 Sharing Your Ideas Describe the place you chose to a partner. Help each other get ideas by asking each other questions about the places you described. Add any new ideas you have to your notes.

Building Vocabulary

7 Identifying Descriptive Words and Phrases Read the following paragraph. Notice the effect the details have on the writing. Underline the descriptive words and phrases.

My Neighborhood

My neighborhood is fascinating because people from all over the world live in it. When I walk down the main street of my neighborhood, I can hear the unfamiliar sounds of languages from all over the world. Each ethnic group has its own colorful shop or fascinating restaurant. On a warm evening, I can smell the sweet melons from the Korean produce store and the spicy curries from the Indian restaurant. These smells are free, but for a small price, I can also buy any of 50 kinds of cheeses with strange names from one store, or exotic Asian vegetables and the spices to cook them in from another. The people of the neighborhood take pride in their surroundings. On almost every street, they plant trees and flowers from their native countries to remind them of home and to brighten up the dull gray cement and run-down apartment buildings. One of my neighbors plants delicate Scottish flowers every year in memory of her mother's garden in Scotland. Another neighbor has a Chinese vegetable garden in window boxes. I don't need to buy an airplane ticket to experience the world; a walk around my neighborhood can be just as exciting.

8 Matching Words to Their Definitions Find words or phrases in the paragraph above that mean the following:

1. strange and unusual exotic _____
2. small and pretty _____
3. very interesting _____
4. to make pretty _____

5. sad-looking _____

6. to be proud of _____



9 Using Sense Details Work in groups of three. Choose one of the photos below. Make lists of sense details that describe the neighborhood. Then use those words to describe the photo.



▲ Hong Kong's neighborhoods are lively.



▲ Some villages in Europe don't change much over time.

1. What you can see:

2. What you can hear:

3. What you can smell:

4. What you can taste:

5. What you can feel:

Organizing Ideas

Strategy

Writing Topic Sentences

The topic sentence tells the reader the subject of the paragraph. In a descriptive paragraph, the topic sentence is general enough to unite all the descriptive details in the paragraph but focused enough to grab the reader's attention. It should also indicate the writer's feeling about the place.

Instead of using vague, overused adjectives such as *nice*, *good*, and *bad* in your topic sentences, use more specific and vivid adjectives.

Vague and uninteresting: My neighborhood is a nice place to live.

Specific and interesting: My neighborhood is fascinating because people from many countries live in it.

10 **Choosing the Best Topic Sentence** For each set of topic sentences below, put a check mark (✓) next to the best topic sentence, the one that is focused and interesting.

1. Topic: "My Room"
 - a. My room is a perfect place for one person to live.
 - b. Many people live in single rooms.
 - c. My room is nice.
 - d. I love the big windows.
2. Topic: "My House"
 - a. There are a lot of houses like mine in my neighborhood.
 - b. I love my house because it is filled with happy memories.
 - c. Big houses are best.
 - d. My family lives in a good house.
3. Topic: "My Dormitory"
 - a. My dormitory has never felt like home to me.
 - b. I live in a dormitory.
 - c. Dormitories are where students live.
 - d. The cafeteria food in my dormitory is good.

Strategy

Writing Concluding Sentences

Most paragraphs have concluding sentences that repeat the idea of the topic sentence in different words. Below is the concluding sentence from the paragraph on page 26 about a neighborhood. Note that it repeats the idea of the topic sentence in different words. In that way, it summarizes the main point of the paragraph.

Example

I don't need to buy an airplane ticket to experience the world; a walk around my neighborhood can be just as exciting.

Other concluding sentences give a personal reaction to the topic of the paragraph. Below is a concluding sentence for a paragraph about a Brazilian student's experience living in a dormitory at an Australian college. Note that it includes a personal opinion.

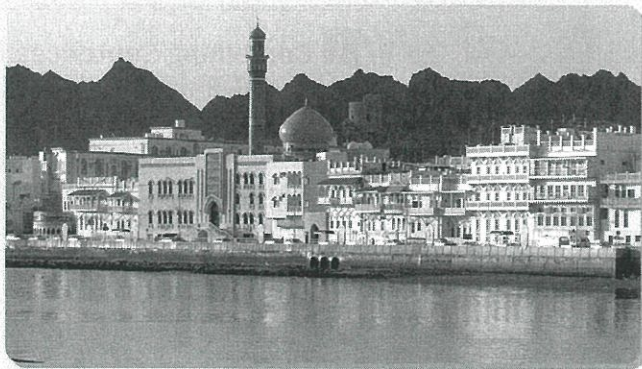
Example

Even though it was sometimes too noisy and crowded, I enjoyed living in my dormitory because of all of the friends I made.

15 Writing Concluding Sentences Read the paragraph below. Then write three possible concluding sentences. Share your ideas with a group of three.

Muscat, the ancient capital of Oman, is on a spectacular site. The city lies on a narrow strip of land between the sparkling blue waters of the Arabian Gulf and the rocky brown mountains behind it. Muscat is a wonderful combination of historic sites and modern buildings. Tourists interested in history will marvel

at the splendid forts with their watchtowers and walled gateways. Those with an interest in contemporary architecture will appreciate the simple lines of the Sultan's lovely but unpretentious palace. Directly adjacent to Muscat is the harbor of Muttrah with its beautiful corniche and busy market full of the sights and sounds of this ancient bridge between the Middle East and Asia.



▲ The corniche in Muttrah Souq, Oman