

Descriptive Paragraph

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INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will learn how to write a descriptive paragraph. Rather than giving a definite response to a topic, descriptive paragraph writing explores the writer's response to the topic. In the descriptive paragraph, you will mainly focus on learning how to describe people and places by using your five senses and applying them to writing.

Some grammatical aspects will also be presented to support improving your skill. In this unit, you will also have much more practice.

From URL:

http://www.vskol.educ.goteborg.se/a/englar/write/interdesc/html_adapted

After learning this unit you are expected to be able to:

1. describe people's character and appearances.
2. write assumption about people.
3. describe places.

UNIT 1

People's Characters and Appearances

WRITING: Describing People's Characters and Appearances

The need to describe people occurs practically often, even if most writers of language do not usually need to write long descriptions to accomplish their purposes. The informal description of other people or even of oneself is common in personal letters. The description of oneself also occurs in job application, reports, and essays.

Before we learn further about this topic, I have a story relates this topic. In our country, many people have only single names. This is pretty strange for foreigners who always have at least two names, the first name and the last name (or family sure name). For them, single name causes confusion in determining who is who.

They normally call someone with his last name or his name (if they know the person well). If someone says 'I met Mr. Armstrong this morning.' And if other people ask, 'Which Armstrong did you meet?' He will say, 'Mr. Lewis Armstrong.' Then, it is clear.

Model for Describing People's Characters and Appearances:

Once, when I was talking to Greg, a Canadian friend, I said that Suprapti, our companion who has only a single name, nominated the best employee of the month. However, there are three Supraptis in my department. Greg did not know which Suprapti who nominated the best employee of the month. Then I said like this:

'She is the one who has long curly black hair and has a birthmark in her left hand. She always greets everybody in the office whenever she comes. She is a neat, humorous, helpful, and well grooming woman. She is the only one Suprapti who does not smoke, while the others smoke a lot.'

After giving Suprapti's description to him, Greg finally learned which Suprapti who nominated the best employee of the month.

The story would not have happened if the three Supraptis had had their own last names. For instance, Suprapti Waluyo, Suprapti Danuhardjo, and Suprapti Nurasiah.

Some useful words:

scruffy	untidy	very informal	slim	fat	humorous
friendly	cheerful	talkative	introvert	extrovert	artistic
eccentric	neat	smart	easygoing	elegant	gentle
grabby	unkempt	thoughtful	cheeky	mischievous	melancholy



ACTIVITY 1

Look at the picture below; describe the people's appearance and characters using your own words. You could use some words from the list above. It will be better if you do this exercise with a partner so that you can compare your



Standing from the front to the back: Jacob, Simon and Pierce
 Sitting from the left to the right: Marry, Pam, and Cindy

From: Littlejohn, Andrew. 1993. *Cambridge Skills for fluency Writing 3*_adapted

GRAMMAR: Rules for the use of present and past tenses

Simple Present

This tense is used to express repeated or permanent events: past, present and future.

Example:

It *rains* almost everyday in Bogor.

They *live* in Jakarta, but they are staying in Bali at the moment.

Present Progressive

This tense is used to express temporary events just now, or just around now.

Example:

It *is raining* again.

They *are watching* Popeye the Sailorman.

Present progressive is also used to express something that has already arranged to do.

Example:

I am leaving tomorrow at 9 by train.

What time is Ben arriving tomorrow?

(Simple) Present Perfect

This tense is used to express events repeated up to now.

Example:

I *have* often *thought* about working abroad.

This tense is also used to express past events that are still ‘news’.

Example:

Do you know that Samantha *has got married*?

Present Perfect Progressive

This tense is used to express events repeated or continuing up to now, up to a few moments ago.

Example:

Jill : ‘You look dirty.’

Alessandro : ‘I *have been playing* football.’

Simple Past

This tense is used to express events that happened one or more times in the past, no connection with now.

Example:

She *gave* me some money yesterday.

When I was a child, I usually *took* a bath in the river.

Past Progressive

This tense is used to express events continuing around a particular time in the past.

Example:

Yesterday, when I met Lisa, she *was watering* her roses.

(Simple) Past Perfect

This tense is used to express 'second', earlier past.

Example:

Last night, before I left my house, I *had locked* the doors.

Past Perfect Progressive

This tense is used to express events repeated or continuing 'up to then.'

Example:

Marry was very tired because she *had been traveling* all day.

From: *The New Cambridge English Course Student Book 3*, by Michael Swan and Catherine Walter adapted.

**ACTIVITY 2**

Use the words in brackets to complete the sentences. One has been done for as an example.

- 1) When her husband came home, Samantha **was preparing** dinner. (prepare)
- 2) Tom and I were good friends, we _____ each other for a long time. (know)
- 3) James was sitting on the bench. He was out of breath. He _____ so fast. (run)
- 4) Pat and Raymond _____ to the dentist twice a year. (go)

- 5) At the moment, some engineers _____ the Opera House. (reconstruct)
- 6) After she _____ her farewell speech, she left the stage sadly. (deliver)
- 7) Lewis _____ her wife in the hospital at 9 this morning. (visit)
- 8) I don't know where Ted is. _____ you _____ him, Harris? (see)
- 9) John was a bus driver. He _____ fifteen hours a week. (work)
- 10) Look! Somebody _____ coffee on the sofa. (spill)



ACTIVITY 3 _____

Choose the right tenses for the following sentences. One has been done for as an example.

- 1) An atheist *does not believe*/~~is not believing~~ in God.
- 2) What *does she do*/*is she doing* in her room?
- 3) Simon *is waiting*/*has been waiting* his mom since 7 o'clock.
- 4) Somebody *has smoked*/*smoked* all my cigarettes. The packet is empty.
- 5) Beethoven *was*/*has been* a great composer.
- 6) Paul *was swimming*/*swam* when the earthquake *happened*/*was happening*.
- 7) We *were playing*/*had been playing* basketball for an hour when it *had started*/*started* to rain.
- 8) One of my pupils *is attending*/*attends* a seminar in the campus library.
- 9) The murderer *had prepared*/*prepared* a very sharp blade before she *stabbed*/*had stabbed* the old man.
- 10) Please don't disturb Cecil, she *has been studying*/*is studying* hard.

LANGUAGE IN USE: Constructing paragraphs

Arrange the following sentences into a good paragraph. Write the range number in the brackets on the left side of the page. The first one has been done for you as an example.

- [] She is a cheerful and good-humored girl.
- [1] Jasmine is a five-year old girl.
- [] She is like Shirley Temple, a famous actress with blond hair.
- [] She is also a smart and talkative girl.
- [] She ties it almost every day.
- [] She has got long wavy blonde hair.

Notes:

In arranging sentences into a paragraph, you have to be careful in reading sentence by sentence. Deep comprehensive judgment is really needed. Remember that sentences are chronology. All you have to do is to determine which sentence comes after another.

Key to Activities

Activity 1 (possible answer)

Jacob

He is about 1.78 cm. He is solid, I think he is about 76 kilos. He has got short grey hair. He is wearing a black blazer, light black polo shirt, and a pair of jeans. He is carrying a leather bag. He is friendly and quite neat.

Simon

He is about the same weight as Jacob, but he is slimmer. He has got short brown hair. He is untidy and unkempt. He does not shave his mustache and beard. He looks so serious and scruffy. He is wearing a stripped T-shirt, brown cloak, and a pair of black trousers. He is carrying a suitcase in his right hand.

Pierce

He is taller than Jacob and Simon. He is slim, about 75 kilos. He has got short blonde hair. He is wearing a black roll-neck, a brown cloak and white trousers. He is carrying a black leather suitcase. He is neat, thoughtful and very formal.

Marry

She is quite tall, slim, and very formal. She is cheeky and she looks melancholy. She is wearing black blues, light brown blazer. She has got short wavy blonde hair.

Pam

She is slim. She has got short straight dark hair. She is wearing blouse. She is an easygoing, friendly, cheerful, and talkative woman.

Cindy

She is taller than Marry and Pam. She is slim. She has got short straight brown hair. She is wearing a black T-shirt, brown cloak, and a pair of brown boots. She is friendly, thoughtful, smart and neat woman.

Activity 2

- 1) When her husband came home, Samantha was preparing dinner
- 2) Tom and I were good friends, we had known each other for a long time.
- 3) James was sitting on the bench. He was out of breath. He has been running so fast.
- 4) Pat and Raymond go to the dentist twice a year.
- 5) At the moment, some engineers are reconstructing the Opera House.
- 6) After she had delivered her farewell speech, she left the stage sadly.
- 7) Lewis visited her wife in the hospital at 9 this morning.
- 8) I don't know where Ted is. Have you seen him, Harris?
- 9) John was a bus driver. He worked fifteen hours a week.
- 10) Look! Somebody has split coffee on the sofa.

Activity 3

- 1) An atheist does not believe in God.
- 2) What is she doing in her room?
- 3) Simon has been waiting his mom since 7 o'clock.
- 4) Somebody has smoked all my cigarettes. The packet is empty.
- 5) Beethoven was a great composer.
- 6) Paul was swimming when the earthquake happened.
- 7) We had been playing basketball for an hour when it started to rain.
- 8) One of my pupils is attending a seminar in the campus library.
- 9) The murderer had prepared a very sharp blade before she stabbed the old man.
- 10) Please don't disturb Cecil, she is studying hard.

LANGUAGE IN USE

[5] She is a cheerful and good-humored girl.

[1] Jasmine is a five-year old girl.

[2] She is like Shirley Temple, a famous actress with blond hair.

[6] She is also a smart and talkative girl.

[4] She ties it almost every day.

[3] She has got long wavy blonde hair.



SUMMARY

Simple Present

It *rains* almost everyday in Bogor.

They *live* in Jakarta, but they are staying in Bali at the moment.

Present Progressive

It *is raining* again.

They *are watching* Popeye the Sailorman.

(Simple) Present Perfect

I *have* often *thought* about working abroad.

Do you know that Samantha *has got married*?

Present Perfect Progressive

Jill : ‘You look dirty.’

Alessandro : ‘I *have been playing* football.’

Simple Past

She *gave* me some money yesterday.

When I was a child, I usually *took* a bath in the river.

Past Progressive

Yesterday, when I met Lisa, she *was watering* her roses.

(Simple) Past Perfect

Last night, before I left my house, I *had locked* the doors.

Past Perfect Progressive

Marry was very tired because she *had been traveling* all day.



FORMATIVE TEST 1 _____

Question 1

Describe the first person (he or she) you met this morning. Be sure that your description is clear and understandable. If necessary, use a dictionary to help you.

Question 2

Use the words in brackets to complete the sentences.

- 1) We cannot go out. It _____ outside. (rain)
- 2) How long _____ you _____ English? (learn)
- 3) Dick and his two friends _____ a lot of beers last night. (drink)
- 4) Lambert's cloth is wet. He _____ the tap. (fix)
- 5) When we were children, our father always _____ some story books. (give)
- 6) An interpreter _____ from one language into another. (translate)
- 7) Don't you remember, I _____ you books? (return)
- 8) The house is scary, _____ you _____ something down under the floor? (hear)
- 9) When Mrs. Priestly _____, we _____ our apparatus. (arrive/pack)
- 10) What _____ you _____ since we last met? (do)

Question 3

Arrange the following sentences into a good paragraph. Write the range number in the brackets on the left side of the page. The first one has been done for you as an example.

- [] Now the quiz shows are gone and in their place have come 'game' shows.
- [] Contestants displayed a breadth of knowledge but most won very little money.
- [] Contestants do not need any knowledge to play yet they must have the ability to jump up and down and squeal.
- [1] In the 1950s, there were a number of 'quiz' shows on television.

- [] With this talent, they can win thousands of dollars or they can drive away in Cadillacs.
- [] Winning the game by displaying one's knowledge was the point.

UNIT 2

Assumption about People

WRITING: Writing Assumption about People

Have you ever guessed someone's personality from his appearance and behavior even if you don't know him at all? For example when you are with friends and suddenly a man or a man walking in front of you.

This part concerns with assuming people's personality, social background, and taste of certain things. This unit deals with Unit 1. Assuming about people is common in the spoken (as commentary), it mostly occurs among people in informal situations, such as in a party, during the lunch break or others. Nevertheless, people frequently need and want to write their assumption about the people they meet in personal writing.

Model for Assumption about People:

When I was at college, I had a friend whose name was Freddy. He was as old as I was. He was an introvert and deep thinking person. In addition, he hardly smiled even when we made jokes.

This is my assumption when the first time I saw him.

I thought that he was a callous and irritable person. He was always alone, dressed up untidily. And I thought that his jeans were not washed for centuries. His only friend was his cigarette.

He stayed alone in a dorm. Once, I saw his room through the window, it was messy. I saw a guitar, and I assumed that he was good at playing guitar, but I don't know his taste of music. He spent his time in his room after attending the lectures. I thought that his room was his favorite place.

I tried to figure out his background character from his appearances. I thought that he was born in a broken home family or an unhappy family. He was not used to communicating with other people. This made him an introvert.

Times flew, and one day what I assumed was right. I found out what and who he was when he was sick. Nobody knew that he was sick until we came to his dorm. He was lying alone in his room desperately. Later, he told me his childhood and his family. What a poor boy he was.

Some useful words:

<i>assumption</i>	<i>bright</i>	<i>simple-minded</i>	<i>sane</i>	<i>silly</i>
<i>imaginative</i>	<i>witty</i>	<i>naive</i>	<i>sincere</i>	<i>brilliant</i>
<i>unselfish</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>callous</i>	<i>patient</i>	<i>affectionate</i>
<i>devious</i>	<i>fair</i>	<i>trusting</i>	<i>vain</i>	<i>cruel</i>
<i>ambitious</i>	<i>determined</i>	<i>weak</i>	<i>indolent</i>	<i>irritable</i>
<i>cynical</i>	<i>skeptical</i>	<i>self-confident</i>	<i>self-reliant</i>	<i>nervous</i>

**ACTIVITY 1** _____

Do this exercise with two or more friends. Write your name and your friends' in a piece of paper. Fold them, and put them in a box. Pick one paper for each person. Do not pick your own name. Then, answer these questions:

- 1) where he/she grew up
- 2) his/her taste in music
- 3) his/her taste in reading
- 4) his/her job
- 5) his/her favorite food
- 6) his/her job
- 7) what his/her house looks like

Fold the paper and write the person's name on the front. Then, give each paper to the appropriate person. Read the paper about you. How accurate is it? Tell your friends what is right and what is wrong.

**ACTIVITY 2** _____

Look at the picture in page 3. Use your imagination, note down your answer to these questions about the persons on the pictures.

- 1) What is his/her name?
- 2) Where was he/she born?
- 3) Where does he/she live now?
- 4) What type of house does he/she live in?
- 5) What does he/she do?

- 6) What is he/she good at?
- 7) What does he/she like doing?
- 8) How does he/she feel about him/herself?
- 9) Is he/she a happy person?
- 10) Where is he/she right now?
- 11) Where is he/she going next?

Answer these questions in paragraphs.

From: *Cambridge Skills for fluency Writing 3* by Little John adapted.

GRAMMAR: Question tags

Question tags after affirmative sentences

Simple Present:

She is your classmate, **isn't** she?

They are from Beijing, **aren't** they?

I am eligible, **aren't** I? (... ~~amn't~~ I)

She lives in Boston, **doesn't** she?

You drink coffee, **don't** you?

Simple Past:

Roger came to your house, **didn't** he?

My friends were happy, **weren't** they?

Cecil was born in Quebec, **wasn't** she?

Past Continuous:

Lee was smoking a cigar, **wasn't** she?

Sean and George were sleeping, **weren't** they?

Present Perfect:

Tony has already arrived, **hasn't** he?

Your children have got married, **haven't** they?

Present Perfect Continuous:

He has been singing for two hours, **hasn't** he?

The drivers have been striking since 5, **haven't** they?

Future:

Richard will take his family, **won't** he?

Question tags after negative sentences

Simple Present:

She is not your classmate, **is** she?

They are not from Beijing, **are** they?

I am not eligible, **am** I?

She does not live in Boston, **does** she?

You don't drink coffee, **do** you?

Simple Past:

Roger did not come to your house, **did** he?

My friends were not happy, **were** they?

Cecil was not born in Quebec, **was** she?

Past Continuous:

Lee was not smoking a cigar, **was** she?

Sean and George were not sleeping, **were** they?

Present Perfect:

Tony has not already arrived, **has** he?

Your children have not got married, **have** they?

Present Perfect Continuous:

He has not been singing for two hours, **has** he?

The drivers have not been striking since 5, **have** they?

Future:

Richard will not take his family, **will** he?

Exceptions:

Everybody is here, **aren't** they?

Nobody came to my party, **did** they?

Stella is **hardly** punctual, **is** he?

Intonation of question tag:

The meaning of a question tag depends on the intonation. If your voice goes down, you are not really asking a question; you are only inviting the listener to agree with you.

Example:

Paul : 'It is hot, isn't it?'

Berry : 'Yes, I am burning myself.'

Jane : 'Roy doesn't look happy today, does he?'

Shaw : 'No, he looks bad.'

If the voice goes up, it is a real question.

Example:

Pam : 'Your father is a doctor, isn't he?'

Ted : 'Yes, he is.'

Nancy : 'You have not paid the insurance, have you?'

Tina : 'No, I have not.'

Look at the answers that Ted and Tina say:

Pam: 'Your father is a doctor, isn't he?'

Ted: 'Yes, he is.'

Positive

Nancy: 'You have not paid the insurance, have you?' Tina: 'No, I have not.'

Negative

**ACTIVITY 3**

- 1) Sally would not tell your wife about your affair, **would she**?
- 2) I am too talkative, _____?

- 3) Jane has been working hard, _____?
- 4) Somebody will take care of the paper, _____?
- 5) You are going out today, _____?
- 6) She never brushes her hair, _____?
- 7) Raymond invented a new machine, _____?
- 8) I should not have lost my temper, _____?
- 9) Gillian looks like his mother, _____?
- 10) Cameron has a lot of novels, _____?



ACTIVITY 4 _____

Put the verb into the correct form present simple or simple past, active or passive and put a question tag at the end of these sentences. One has been done for you as an example.

- 1) Water **is needed** (need) in a desert, **isn't it?**
- 2) Somebody _____ (clean) the room everyday, _____?
- 3) Last night, the flight to Sri Lanka _____ (cancel), _____?
- 4) Ali and Aliah never _____ (drink) beer, _____?
- 5) The letters _____ (post) a week ago, _____?
- 6) Simons always _____ (feed) his pet at 6, _____?
- 7) Fred _____ (take) some pills just now, _____?
- 8) The Romans _____ (found) a great city on the banks of this river, _____?
- 9) James _____ (catch) a bee this morning, _____?
- 10) In your town, cigarettes _____ (ban) at all cafeterias, _____?

LANGUAGE IN USE: Asking for agreement

Read the situation and write a sentence with a question tag. In each situation you are asking your friend to agree with you. One has been done for you as an example.

- 1) You look out of the window. The sky is very dark. What do you say to your friend? (horrible day) **It is going rain, isn't it?**
- 2) You are standing under a big oak tree. What do you say to your friend? (hug) The tree _____

- 3) You and your friend are outside a jewelry shop. You are looking at the prices, which are very high. What do you say to your friend? (expensive) It _____
- 4) You and your friend meet a 120 year-old man. What do you say to your friend? (very old) He _____
- 5) You have just come out the cinema with a friend. You are really dissatisfied with the film. What do you say to your friend? (a boring film) It _____
- 6) You and your friend are listening to an old song, you enjoy it very much. What do you say to your friend? (a lovely song) It _____
- 7) Your friend sees you dating with your close friend. What do you say to your friend? (not/tell/your wife) You _____
- 8) You and your friend want to buy a rucksack. What do you say to your friend? (nice) It _____
- 9) You and a friend are walking over a slippery road. What do you say to your friend? (not/very safe) It _____
- 10) You and a friend are walking in the rain. You are not wearing jacket nor sweater. What do you say to your friend? (cold) It _____

Key to Activities

Activity 2 (possible answer)

Jacob

I think he was born in a middle class family. He is a serious person and I think that he is not able to make friends easily. Therefore, I assume that he does not have many friends. He lives in a small flat, may be he lives alone. He has got an informal job, I guess he's a bus operator or works in a small office. I don't think he's got strong confidence. You agree with me, don't you?

Simon

I think he was born in a low class family or in a poor family where his parents do not really take care of him well because of financial problems. His clothes show his poorness, don't they? He lives in a small flat and I don't think he is married. His flat must be untidy, like him. He is almost jobless. He works only when somebody needs his assistance. He lives freely, unengaged by permanent job or activities. He is an introvert and tends to be a little bit bed tamper.

Pierce

Pierce is a confident person. He comes from a high-class family. He is wearing nice clothes, isn't he? He is an easy going and brilliant person. He

works in an office as a white-collar worker. He might be an important person in his office. He lives in a big house with his family. He likes traveling and doing jobs that need brain and skill. Even though he is not talkative, he has many friends.

Marry

I think she was born in a middle class family. He grew up in a luxurious atmosphere. I don't think she has got a job. She is only a housewife whose husband is always busy. She likes spending her time talking with her friends in cafés or restaurants. She is a simple-minded, indolent, and skeptical woman. At the moment she isn't very happy, is she?

Pam

Pam is an affectionate, easygoing, sincere, and self-reliant woman. She is a nice looking woman, isn't she? She was born in a middle class family where the parents always poured her love and affection. She has many friends and she is good at communicating. She works in an office as a secretary or a middle manager. She is proud of her job and herself. She lives in a cozy and tidy flat. She is not married yet.

Cindy

She is sympathetic, witty, and self-confident, isn't she? She was born in a middle class family. She is quite well educated. She is now working in a big store as sales manager or sales supervisor. I think she's married and have one or two children. She lives in a small house. I think she is good at counting or something relating to numbers.

Activity 3

- 1) Sally would not tell your wife about your affair, *would she?*
- 2) I am too talkative, *aren't I?*
- 3) Jane has been working hard, *hasn't he?*
- 4) Somebody will take care of the paper, *won't they?*
- 5) You are going out today, *aren't you?*
- 6) She never brushes her hair, *does she?*
- 7) Raymond invented a new machine, *didn't he?*
- 8) I should not have lost my temper, *should I?*
- 9) Gillian looks like his mother, *doesn't she?*
- 10) Cameron has a lot of novels, *doesn't she?*

Activity 4

- 1) Water *is needed* in a desert, *isn't it?*
- 2) Somebody *cleans* the room everyday, *don't they?*

- 3) Last night, the flight to Sri Lanka *was cancelled, wasn't it?*
- 4) Ali and Aliah never *drink* beer, *do they?*
- 5) The letters *were posted* a week ago, *weren't they?*
- 6) Simons always *feeds* his pet at 6, *doesn't he?*
- 7) Fred *took* some pills just now, *didn't he?*
- 8) The Romans *founded* a great city on the banks of this river, *didn't they?*
- 9) James *caught* a bee this morning, *didn't he?*
- 10) In your town, cigarettes *are banned* at all cafeterias, *aren't they?*

LANGUAGE IN USE

- 1) It is going rain, isn't it?
- 2) The tree is huge, isn't it?
- 3) It is very expensive, isn't it?
- 4) He is very old, isn't he?
- 5) It was a boring film, isn't it?
- 6) It is a lovely song, isn't it?
- 7) You will not tell my wife, will you?
- 8) It is nice, isn't it?
- 9) It is not very safe, is it?
- 10) It is very cold, isn't it?



SUMMARY

Question tags

The patterns of question tags are:

1. If the sentence is positive/affirmative, then the tag is negative.

Simple Present	: Sentence, isn't/aren't/doesn't/don't, Subject?
Simple Past	: Sentence, wasn't/weren't/didn't, Subject?
Present Perfect	: Sentence, hasn't/haven't, Subject?
Future	: Sentence, won't, Subject?
2. If the sentence is negative, then the tag is positive/affirmative.

Simple Present	: Sentence, is/are/am/does/do, Subject?
Simple Past	: Sentence, was/were/did, Subject?
Present Perfect	: Sentence, has/have, Subject?
Future	: Sentence, will, Subject?
3. The tag is always in a short form.
4. As a question, a question mark is a necessity.



FORMATIVE TEST 2 _____

Question 1

Write an assumption about someone you really admire in your family.

Question 2

Add suitable tags.

- 1) That was a great meal, _____?
- 2) Nicole isn't very pretty, _____?
- 3) Jason has never been out of the country, _____?
- 4) Everybody enjoyed the party, _____?
- 5) Mr. White has three little puppies, _____?
- 6) There is no homework, _____?
- 7) Your father was flying yesterday, _____?
- 8) Marry and her friends went to the hospital, _____?
- 9) Tracy will never forgive your mistake, _____?
- 10) Nobody saw us kissing, _____?

Question 3

Match the tag questions on the right with the sentence on the left.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1) He's waiting for Willy, | a. is it? |
| 2) The lights weren't very bright, | b. haven't they |
| 3) It's never too late, | c. does he? |
| 4) Jessica and Timothy have a rabbit, | d. wasn't he? |
| 5) Nothing has changed, | e. was he? |
| 6) Some deer are hardly tired, | f. hasn't she? |
| 7) Tenny wasn't in her office, | g. don't they? |
| 8) Tom and McCoy have arrived, | h. are they? |
| 9) Sean never goes to the school on foot, | i. were they? |
| 10) Pamela has been to Timbuktu, | j. have they? |

UNIT 3

Places

WRITING: Describing Places

How to present sharp, focused pictures?

1. When you *describe* to develop a point, you draw image or impression in words that reveal the things described.
2. Appeal to *all* the reader's senses: sight, smell, touch, hearing, taste. Be very specific.
3. *Select* the details you want to include in the description so that they give one main impression of the object, person, or scene. Don't try to describe everything at once. This means that you will choose details according to what your purpose is at the time.

From: *Writing Brief Edition* by Elizabeth Cowan _ adapted

Model for Describing Place:

This is a description of my daughter's classroom. She is in the third grade of elementary school.

The room has a very high ceiling and feels more like a hall than a classroom. It was built during the Dutch occupation. It is very old. The sliding doors of coat closets make the back wall. One side wall seems entirely made of windows reaching all the way to the high ceiling from above the steam heat registers and the shelf made by their tops which are covered with potted plants and a globe of the earth. Next to the globe, there is a pencil sharpener.

We can see the playground and then the railroad tracks through the windows. We can feel the fresh air here. Sometimes, we can hear the wind blows when the students have gone home or you can hear your own footstep. The atmosphere is very quiet and rather scary.

There are two wide blackboards in front of the class. The color is faded. The wall is decorated with pictures of National heroes and heroines.

There are twenty desks and a teacher's desk. They are as old as the building itself.

Some useful words:

<i>cozy</i>	<i>atmosphere</i>	<i>residential</i>	<i>view</i>	<i>riverside</i>
<i>resident</i>	<i>opposite</i>	<i>extend</i>	<i>cover</i>	<i>surround</i>
<i>furniture</i>	<i>attic</i>	<i>fence</i>	<i>scene</i>	<i>dismal</i>
<i>clean</i>	<i>muggy</i>	<i>headline</i>	<i>picturesque</i>	<i>alleyway</i>



ACTIVITY 1 _____

Have you ever seen the sunset? Describe the situation and your feeling.



ACTIVITY 2 _____

Describe your bedroom when you were still a child.

GRAMMAR: Passives

Simple Present

Example:

Paper *is made* of wood.

Indonesia *is governed* from Jakarta.

Present Progressive

Example:

The number you are calling *is being repaired*.

Don't say anything, you *are being recorded*.

Simple Past

Example:

My house *was built* in 1977.

The criminals *were sentenced* yesterday.

Past Progressive

Example:

When I passed the bridge, it *was being renovated*.

The Prime Minister *was being interrogated* by some politicians.

Present Perfect

Example:

The letter *has been sent* to Mr. Kawasaki.

The new apparatus *have been prepared* to welcome the President.

Future

Example:

Some female employees *will be laid off* by the company.

The film *will be rerun* by the TV Station.

Notes:

Remember, avoid using passive forms if you still can use active forms. Normally, western people do not like using passive forms except when they are talking about a process.

Example:

An Indonesian may say: 'I was invited to attend Rica's party.'

An American will say: 'Rica invited me to attend her party.'

**ACTIVITY 3**

Change each of the following passive sentences into active forms. One has been done for you as an example.

- 1) Joel is being followed by a stranger. ***A stranger is following Joel.***
- 2) On Sundays, my car is washed by James.
- 3) Last night, my door was window by a big rat.
- 4) Sonny will be informed by me.
- 5) My house has been painted yellow by my uncle.
- 6) The speech was listened patiently by the audiences.
- 7) My staffs are supervised by Mr. Dickinson.
- 8) I have been told about the scandal by his secretary.
- 9) Susan was accused of having some drugs by the headmaster.
- 10) Some new employees will be hired by the Dean of Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.



ACTIVITY 4 _____

Fill in the correct **past participle** of the verb in brackets. One has been done for as an example.

- 1) The proposal has been **rejected** (reject) because it is overdue.
- 2) Jim was _____ (see) sneaking out the back door.
- 3) The script will be _____ (write) in Spanish and I will translate it into English.
- 4) Ann is _____ (torture) by her new position in her department.
- 5) The City Hall has been _____ (complete), and everyone is joyful.
- 6) Tamara was _____ (sting) by a giant bee.
- 7) My credit card has been _____ (steal) and I need to propose the new one.
- 8) The motorbike will be _____ (sell) as soon as possible.
- 9) Many daily necessities are _____ (import) from the United States of America.
- 10) The corpses were _____ (hide) in a bunker in the back of the murderer's house.

LANGUAGE IN USE: Analyzing grammatical errors

Some of these sentences containing errors in the **past participle**; other are correct. Revise the incorrect sentences and put **C** next to any correct sentences.

- 1) Ripley was ~~ehese~~ **chosen** to represent our school at the union meeting.
- 2) Johan will be hit by his father as the punishment of his failure.
- 3) She is confused by the directions on the map I wrote.
- 4) Have you find something weird in my resume?
- 5) The package was wrap and deliver carefully.
- 6) James has been elect the president of our organization.
- 7) Antonio is sent some money by his father every month.
- 8) The tooth was pull out by the dentist and I was really scare.
- 9) The trophy will be award to the best employee.
- 10) That sing has been sung by Mariah Carey.

*Key to Activities*Activity 1 (possible answer)

It was a perfect beach with immense beauty. Coconut trees formed picturesque arcs over endless stretches of the perfect beach. The leaves of the coconut tree swayed gently in the hot, dry breeze. The beach was bathed in a golden hue by the gentle sunlight and was fronted by tropical water on one side. The turquoise water was shimmering.

It was very silent and romantic. Some seabirds flew across the beach. When they passed the sunset, it was like a picture. The sky got darker and darker while the sun was sinking into the sea. The orange color of the sun faded out very slowly.

Activity 2 (possible answer)

I slept alone in my own bedroom when I was 5 years old. My bedroom was next to my parents' bedroom.

It was about 9 meter square. The wall was painted blue, but the door was yellow. They were my favorite color. There were three paintings hanging on the wall, they were A Spiderman picture, my picture, and a Popeye the Sailorman picture. There was also a small plane hanging right above my bed.

The bed was yellow. If I stood on the door, the bed was on the right. The pillows and the bed clothe were blue and they were decorated by Popeye the Sailorman pictures. The bed was against the wall.

In front of the bed, on the left side of the bedroom, there was a small table where I used to drawing. The table was blue and the chair was yellow. Next to the table, there was a cabinet where I put my clothes, still the color was blue but the door was yellow. On the cabinet, there were some toys. My father always gave me some toys if he went abroad or other cities in Indonesia.

Activity 3

- 1) A stranger is following Joel.
- 2) On Sundays, James washes my car.
- 3) Last night, a big rat window my door.
- 4) I will inform Sonny.
- 5) My uncle has painted my house yellow.
- 6) The audiences listened to the speech patiently.
- 7) Mr. Dickinson supervises my staffs.

- 8) His secretary has told me about the scandal.
- 9) The headmaster accused Susan of having some drugs.
- 10) The Dean of Faculty of Social and Political Sciences will hire some new employees.

Activity 4

- 1) The proposal has been **rejected** because it is overdue.
- 2) Jim was **seen** sneaking out the back door.
- 3) The script will be **written** in Spanish and I will translate it into English.
- 4) Ann is **tortured** by her new position in her department.
- 5) The City Hall has been **completed**, and everyone is joyful.
- 6) Tamara was **stung** by a giant bee.
- 7) My credit card has been **stolen** and I need to propose the new one.
- 8) The motorbike will be **sold** as soon as possible.
- 9) Many daily necessities are **imported** from the United States of America.
- 10) The corpses were **hidden** in a bunker in the back of the murderer's house.

LANGUAGE IN USE

- 1) Ripley was ~~chose~~ **chosen** to represent our school at the union meeting.
- 2) Johan will be hit by his father as the punishment of his failure. C
- 3) She is confused by the directions on the map I wrote. C
- 4) Have you ~~find~~ **found** something weird in my resume.
- 5) The package was ~~wrap~~ **wrapped** and ~~deliver~~ **delivered** carefully.
- 6) James has been ~~elect~~ **elected** the president of our organization.
- 7) Antonio is sent some money by his father every month. C
- 8) The tooth was ~~pull~~ **pulled** out by the dentist and I was really ~~scare~~ **scared**.
- 9) The trophy will be ~~award~~ **awarded** to the best employee.
- 10) That sing has been sung by Mariah Carey. C



SUMMARY

Passives

Simple Present

Pattern: Subject – is/am/are/ past participle

Paper *is made* of wood.

Indonesia *is governed* from Jakarta.

Present Progressive

Pattern: Subject – is/am/are/ - being - past participle

The number you are calling *is being repaired*.

Don't say anything, you *are being recorded*.

Simple Past

Pattern: Subject – was/were – past participle

My house *was built* in 1977.

The criminals *were sentenced* yesterday.

Past Progressive

Pattern: Subject – was/were – being - past participle

When I passed the bridge, it *was being renovated*.

The Prime Minister *was being interrogated* by some politicians.

Present Perfect

Pattern: Subject – has/have – been – past participle

The letter *has been sent* to Mr. Kawasaki.

The new apparatus *have been prepared* to welcome the President.

Future

Pattern: Subject – will/shall – be – past participle

Some female employees *will be laid off* by the company.

The film will be *rerun* by the TV Station.



FORMATIVE TEST 3 _____

Question 1

Describe your kitchen. How it looks like; how wide it is and so on.

Question 2

Fill in the correct **past participle** of the verb in brackets.

- 1) Samantha is _____ (support) by her friends to win the position as the treasurer of the party.
- 2) The problem has been _____ (break) down and everybody seems to be happy.
- 3) The activity can be _____ (do) in one or two 50-minute lessons.
- 4) Many people feel they are being _____ (judge) when someone read what they have _____ (write).
- 5) This question is _____ (intend) for you who always skip my class.
- 6) Carole Day is being _____ (lead) to safety from the ruin.
- 7) A train was _____ (derail) yesterday minutes after rail engineers stopped and left equipment at the trackside.
- 8) Medicines should not be _____ (test) on animals.
- 9) English is _____ (speak) in India.
- 10) Jeremiah has _____ (swear) in front of my parents, and I know he will keep it.

Question 3

Some of these sentences containing errors in the **past participle**; other are correct. Revise the incorrect sentences and put **C** next to any correct sentences.

- 1) That cloak was woven by a witch many years ago.
- 2) The meat had been froze before she packed it.
- 3) Smith has resigned from his office.
- 4) The number of bulls in National Park has shrank from 200 to 90.
- 5) The medicine must be well shook before use.
- 6) I have forgave her for what she has did.
- 7) The news has been spread across the country.
- 8) Gillian Clark will be flew to Bogota as a negotiator.
- 9) Miss. Carol was deceived by the travel agent.
- 10) The letter has been tore by Tory.

Key to Formative Test

Formative Test 1

Question 1 (possible answer)

The first person I met this morning was Mr. Lee. He was my landlord. He was still wearing his broken white pajamas. I met him at 4.30 in the morning. His hair was uncombed, it was rascal. As information, he never combs his hair. He was smoking a cigarette and carrying a cup of coffee. He was also wearing a pair of glasses.

He is about 40 or 45 years old and 160 centimeters high. He is about 70 kilograms. He is an eccentric and humorous man, but a kindhearted person. He is like a woman. The ways he speaks, walks, and behaves are just like a woman. He is not married, and I don't think he will.

Question 2

- 1) We can not go out. It *is raining* outside.
- 2) How long *have* you *been learning* English?
- 3) Dick and his two friends *drank* a lot of beers last night.
- 4) Lambert's cloth is wet. He *has been fixing* the tap.
- 5) When we were children, our father always *gave* some story books.
- 6) An interpreter *translates* from one language into another.
- 7) Don't you remember, I *have returned* you books?
- 8) The house is scary, *do* you *hear* something down under the floor?
- 9) When Mrs. Priestly *arrived*, we *were packing* our apparatus.
- 10) What *have* you *bee doing* since we last met?

Question 3

- [4] Now the quiz shows are gone and in their place have come 'game' shows.
- [2] Contestants displayed a breadth of knowledge but most won very little money.
- [5] Contestants do not need any knowledge to play yet they must have the ability to jump up and down and squeal.
- [1] In the 1950s, there were a number of 'quiz' shows on television.
- [6] With this talent, they can win thousands of dollars or they can drive away in Cadillacs.
- [3] Winning the game by displaying one's knowledge was the point.

*Formative Test 2*Question 1 (possible answer)

The person I really admire in my family is my father. He was born on December 25, 1925. His parents were nobles. He grew up in a feudal family. Even though he grew in a feudal family and in a small village, he was a democrat person himself and he had deep thinking and wide horizon about life.

He was a deep-thinking, broadminded, sometimes stubborn, and sincere person. He was a good friend to talk to, but he often dominated the conversation. He often felt that he knew everything. It is the father's syndrome, isn't it? And sometimes, he treated his children like his students and he was the teacher who knew everything from A to Z. One good point was that he was a debatable teacher.

He taught us, his children, as how to behave and treat other people well. He also taught us how to see a condition. Sometimes, I felt that he determined us too much. He often said that young people spoke with his 80% emotion and 20% consideration, but old people spoke with his 80% consideration and 20% experience. Now I understand what he meant.

Question 2

- 1) That was a great meal, *wasn't that?*
- 2) Nicole isn't very pretty, *is she?*
- 3) Jason has never been out of the country, *has he?*
- 4) Everybody enjoyed the party, *didn't they?*
- 5) Mr. White has three little puppies, *doesn't he?*
- 6) There is no homework, *is there?*
- 7) Your father was flying yesterday, *wasn't he?*
- 8) Marry and her friends went to the hospital, *didn't they?*
- 9) Tracy will never forgive your mistake, *will she?*
- 10) Nobody saw us kissing, *did they?*

Question 3

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) He's waiting for Willy, | e. was he? |
| 2) The lights weren't very bright, | i. were they? |
| 3) It's never too late, | a. is it? |
| 4) Jessica and Timothy have a rabbit, | g. don't they? |
| 5) Nothing has changed, | j. have they? |

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 6) Some deer are hardly tired, | h. are they? |
| 7) Tenny wasn't in her office, | d. wasn't she? |
| 8) Tom and McCoy have arrived, | b. haven't they |
| 9) Sean never goes to the school on foot, | c. does he? |
| 10) Pamela has been to Timbuktu, | f. hasn't she? |

Formative Test 3

Question 1 (possible answer)

My kitchen is quite small. It is 2.5 times 2.5 meter. It is in the back of my house. The wall is painted light green. The floor is grey. If we stand head the kitchen, the gas stove is in front of us and a washbasin is on the right. Next to the washbasin, there is an aluminum cupboard. In front of the aluminum cupboard or on the right side of the door, there is a table where I put a magic jar, a water dispenser and coffee maker.

On the left side of the door there is an artificial waterfall. We have meal on a mat on the floor, next to the waterfall so that we can see some fish while we are having meal.

Question 2

- 1) Samantha is **supported** by her friends to win the position as the treasurer of the party.
- 2) The problem has been **broken** down and everybody seems to be happy.
- 3) The activity can be **done** in one or two 50-minute lessons.
- 4) Many people feel they are being **judged** when someone read what they have **written**.
- 5) This question is **intended** for you who always skip my class.
- 6) Carole Day is being **led** to safety from the ruin.
- 7) A train was **derailed** yesterday minutes after rail engineers stopped and left equipment at the trackside.
- 8) Medicines should not be **tested** on animals.
- 9) English is **spoken** in India.
- 10) Jeremiah has **sworn** in front of my parents, and I know he will keep it.

Question 3

- 1) That cloak was woven by a witch many years ago.
- 2) The meat had been ~~froze~~ **frozen** before she packed it.
- 3) Smith has resigned from his office.

- 4) The number of bulls in National Park has ~~shrank~~ **shrunk** from 200 to 90.
- 5) The medicine must be well ~~shook~~ **shaken** before use.
- 6) I have ~~forgave~~ **forgiven** her for what she has did.
- 7) The news has been spread across the country.
- 8) Gillian Clark will be ~~flew~~ **flown** to Bogotá as a negotiator.
- 9) Miss. Carol was deceived by the travel agent.
- 10) The letter has been ~~toe~~ **torn** by Tory.

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