

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS FOR YOUR WRITING

SLIDE 2

Descriptive Words for ABILITY

Descriptive Words for ANGER

SLIDE 3

Descriptive Words for SADNESS

Descriptive Words for DISTRESS

Descriptive Words for FEAR

SLIDE 4

Descriptive Words for INABILITY

Descriptive Words for JOY

Descriptive Words for LOVE

SLIDE 5

Descriptive Words for QUANTITY

Descriptive Words for APPEARANCE

Descriptive Words for SIZE

Descriptive Words for SMELL/TASTE

SLIDE 6

Descriptive Words for SOUND

Descriptive Words for TIME

Descriptive Words for TOUCH

List 60. DESCRIPTIVE WORDS

What do telling tales and writing poetry or reports have in common? They depend on descriptive words to create vivid and accurate images in the reader's mind. A good stock of descriptive words will bolster the quality of your students' writing exercises. Use these lists of adjectives and adverbs to nudge reluctant writers into developing characters and setting, or to help students "retire" overused words.

Ability—Condition

able	confident	gentle	lucky	smooth
adequate	courageous	hardy	manly	spirited
alive	curious	healthy	mighty	stable
assured	daring	heavy	modern	steady
authoritative	determined	heroic	open	stouthearted
bold	durable	important	outstanding	strong
brainy	dynamic	influential	powerful	super
brave	eager	innocent	real	sure
busy	easy	intense	relaxed	tame
careful	effective	inquisitive	rich	tough
cautious	energetic	jerky	robust	victorious
clever	firm	light	sharp	zealous
competent	forceful	lively	shy	
concerned	gallant	loose	skillful	

Anger—Hostility

agitated	combative	evil	irritated	rude
aggravated	contrary	fierce	mad	savage
aggressive	cool	furious	mean	severe
angry	cranky	hard	nasty	spiteful
annoyed	creepy	harsh	obnoxious	tense
arrogant	cross	hateful	obstinate	terse
belligerent	cruel	hostile	outraged	vicious
biting	defiant	impatient	perturbed	vindictive
blunt	disagreeable	inconsiderate	repulsive	violent
bullying	enraged	insensitive	resentful	wicked
callous	envious	intolerant	rough	wrathful

See also List 25, Synonyms.



Depression—Sadness—Gloom

abandoned	depressed	forsaken	low	ruined
alien	desolate	gloomy	miserable	rundown
alienated	despairing	glum	mishandled	sad
alone	despised	grim	mistreated	scornful
awful	despondent	hated	moody	sore
battered	destroyed	homeless	mournful	stranded
blue	discarded	hopeless	obsolete	tearful
bored	discouraged	horrible	ostracized	terrible
burned	dismal	humiliated	overlooked	tired
<i>cheapened</i>	<i>downcast</i>	<i>hurt</i>	<i>pathetic</i>	<i>unhappy</i>
crushed	downhearted	jilted	pitiful	unloved
debased	downtrodden	kaput	rebuked	whipped
defeated	dreadful	loathed	regretful	worthless
degraded	estranged	lonely	rejected	wrecked
dejected	excluded	lonesome	reprimanded	
demolished	forlorn	lousy	rotten	

Distress

afflicted	displeased	hindered	puzzled	tormented
anguished	dissatisfied	impaired	ridiculous	touchy
awkward	distrustful	impatient	sickened	troubled
baffled	disturbed	imprisoned	silly	ungainly
bewildered	doubtful	lost	skeptical	unlucky
clumsy	foolish	nauseated	speechless	unpopular
confused	futile	offended	strained	unsatisfied
constrained	grief	pained	suspicious	unsure
disgusted	helpless	perplexed	swamped	weary
disliked				

Fear—Anxiety

afraid	dreading	insecure	overwhelmed	tense
agitated	eerie	intimidated	panicky	terrified
alarmed	embarrassed	jealous	restless	timid
anxious	fearful	jittery	scared	uncomfortable
apprehensive	frantic	jumpy	shaky	uneasy
bashful	frightened	nervous	shy	upset
dangerous	hesitant	on edge	strained	worrying
desperate	horrified			



Inability—Inadequacy

anemic	disabled	incapable	powerless	unable
ashamed	exhausted	incompetent	puny	uncertain
broken	exposed	ineffective	shaken	unfit
catatonic	fragile	inept	shaky	unimportant
cowardly	frail	inferior	shivering	unqualified
crippled	harmless	insecure	sickly	unsound
defeated	helpless	meek	small	useless
defective	impotent	mummified	strengthless	vulnerable
deficient	inadequate	naughty	trivial	weak
demoralized				

Joy—Elation

amused	enchanted	glorious	joyful	smiling
blissful	enthusiastic	good	jubilant	splendid
brilliant	exalted	grand	magnificent	superb
calm	excellent	gratified	majestic	terrific
cheerful	excited	great	marvelous	thrilled
comical	exuberant	happy	overjoyed	tremendous
contented	fantastic	hilarious	pleasant	triumphant
delighted	fit	humorous	pleased	vivacious
ecstatic	funny	inspired	proud	witty
elated	gay	jolly	relieved	wonderful
elevated	glad	joyful	satisfied	

Love—Affection—Concern

admired	conscientious	giving	mellow	reliable
adorable	considerate	good	mild	respectful
affectionate	cooperative	helpful	moral	sensitive
agreeable	cordial	honest	neighborly	sweet
altruistic	courteous	honorable	nice	sympathetic
amiable	dedicated	hospitable	obliging	tender
benevolent	devoted	humane	open	thoughtful
benign	empathetic	interested	optimistic	tolerant
brotherly	fair	just	patient	trustworthy
caring	faithful	kind	peaceful	truthful
charitable	forgiving	kindly	pleasant	understanding
comfortable	generous	lovable	reasonable	warm
congenial	genuine	loving	receptive	worthy



Quantity

ample	few	lots	paucity	scarcity
abundant	heavy	many	plentiful	skimpy
chock-full	lavish	meager	plenty	sparing
copious	liberal	much	profuse	sparse
dearth	light	numerous	scads	sufficient
empty	loads	oodles	scant	well-stocked

Sight—Appearance

adorable	crinkled	foggy	motionless	skinny
alert	crooked	fuzzy	muddy	smoggy
beautiful	crowded	glamorous	murky	sparkling
blinding	crystalline	gleaming	nappy	spotless
bright	curved	glistening	narrow	square
brilliant	cute	glowing	obtuse	steep
broad	dark	graceful	rotund	stormy
blonde	deep	grotesque	round	straight
bloody	dim	hazy	pale	strange
blushing	distinct	high	poised	ugly
chubby	dull	hollow	quaint	unsightly
clean	elegant	homely	shadowy	unusual
clear	fancy	light	shady	weird
cloudy	filthy	lithe	shallow	wide
colorful	flat	low	sheer	wizened
contoured	fluffy	misty	shiny	

Size

ample	elfin	immense	miniature	stupendous
average	enormous	large	minute	tall
behemoth	fat	little	petite	tiny
big	giant	long	portly	towering
bulky	gigantic	mammoth	prodigious	vast
colossal	great	massive	puny	voluminous
diminutive	huge	microscopic	short	wee
dwarfed	hulking	middle-sized	small	

Smell—Taste

acid	fragrant	putrid	sour	sweet
antiseptic	fresh	ripe	spicy	tangy
bitter	juicy	rotten	stale	tart
choking	medicinal	salty	sticky	tasteless
clean	nutty	savory	strong	tasty
delicious	peppery	smoky	stuffy	



Sound

bang	groan	melodic	screech	thud
booming	growl	moan	shrill	thump
buzz	harsh	mute	silent	thunderous
clatter	high-pitched	noisy	snarl	tinkle
cooing	hiss	purring	snort	voiceless
crash	hoarse	quiet	soft	wail
crying	hushed	raspy	splash	whine
deafening	husky	resonant	squeak	whispered
faint	loud	screaming	squeal	

Time

ancient	daylight	late	outdated	sunrise
annual	decade	lengthy	periodic	sunset
brief	dusk	long	punctual	swift
brisk	early	modern	quick	tardy
centuries	eons	moments	rapid	twilight
continual	evening	noon	short	whirlwind
crawling	fast	noonday	slowly	yearly
dawn	flash	old	speedy	years
daybreak	intermittent	old-fashioned	sporadic	young

Touch

boiling	dirty	grubby	shaggy	stinging
breezy	dry	hard	sharp	tender
bumpy	dusty	hot	silky	tight
chilly	filthy	icy	slick	uneven
cold	flaky	loose	slimy	waxen
cool	fluffy	melted	slippery	wet
creepy	fluttering	plastic	slushy	wooden
crisp	frosty	prickly	smooth	yielding
cuddly	fuzzy	rainy	soft	
curly	goeey	rough	solid	
damp	greasy	sandpapery	sticky	

