

Mastering Adjectives: Painting with Words

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and precise adjectives to create vivid imagery and atmosphere in descriptive writing.

Follow the prompts below to build your own descriptive scene. Remember to use a variety of adjectives to show, not just tell, what your setting looks, sounds, and feels like. Use the word bank to help your sentences flow.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, Zara the zebra gazed out across the vast, golden savannah, where the landscape transformed into a tapestry of deep shadows and soft, glowing light.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition to · shimmering · ominous · vibrant · meticulous · breathtakingly · beneath the surface · contrary to expectations

1. Setting the Scene: Start by describing the environment using at least two powerful adjectives. Try starting with: The landscape appeared... (2 marks)

2. Character Detail: Describe a character (like Max or Pip) interacting with this setting. Focus on their appearance or emotions. Start with: Standing amidst the... (2 marks)

3. Sensory Details: Focus on a sound or a smell in your setting. Use an adjective to describe the sensory experience. Start with: A sudden, [adjective] breeze carried... (2 marks)

4. Atmospheric Shift: How does the mood change? Use a connective and a precise adjective. Start with: Furthermore, the atmosphere became... (2 marks)

5. Final Reflection: Conclude your description by summarising the scene's impact on the character. Start with: Gazing at the view, they felt... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Replace three of your basic adjectives with more ambitious, sophisticated synonyms. Can you use a 'show, don't tell' technique to describe the weather without using the word 'cold' or 'hot'?