

**Use linguistic, grammatical, structural and presentational features to achieve particular effects.**

***I occasionally use an interesting effect.***

**BASE**

**THERAPY**

**Breaking down the skill:**

* I have some knowledge of literary devices and sometimes use them to create effects in my writing.

**Task 1.** Use the table below to revise some possible sentence structures for creating vivid descriptions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use a **one-word** sentence. | **Perfect.** |
| Start one sentence with an **adverb + comma**. | **Gently, the wind whispered through the trees.**  |
| Start one sentence with an **adjective + comma**. | **Stunned, I gazed out to sea.**  |
| Always start one sentence with an – **ing verb + comma**. | **Rolling as far as the eye could see, the sand was a crisp white.** |
| Always use at least one **who** clause. | **The locals, who are very relaxed, ride everywhere on bicycles with baguettes in their baskets!** |
| Always use at least one **which** clause. | **A serene evening, which was very warm, melted our hearts.**  |

**Task 2.** Now think about a place where you have been on holiday. Use the different structures to write some sentences which describe this place.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use a **one-word** sentence. |  |
| Start one sentence with an **adverb + comma**. |  |
| Start one sentence with an **adjective + comma**. |  |
| Always start one sentence with an – **ing verb + comma**. |  |
| Always use at least one **who** clause. |  |
| Always use at least one **which** clause. |  |

**What is description writing?**

Description questions can vary, but they will always require you to create for the reader an impression of something. This means giving the reader the ability to ‘feel’ what the place or experience was like. The following exercises are based on WJEC style description tasks.

*Example 1: Write an article describing a difficult journey that you have made.*

*This question tests your ability to convey an impression of places and experiences. You need to give the reader an insight into your surrounding and your feelings on the journey.*

**Task 1.** Match the sentences below to the correct labels.

**Direct Speech**

**Metaphor**

**Personification**

**Onomatopoeia**

**Simile**

|  |
| --- |
| Like a seal dragging itself across a sandy beach, I lugged the suitcases across the airport tarmac.  |
| The light aircraft which would transport us to the island seemed to be laughing at me as I struggled. |
| “We expect bad weather, so everybody fasten seatbelts,” the pilot insisted monotonously.  |
| The dizzying rollercoaster of turbulence lasted almost the whole flight.  |
| Crying and wailing, the propellers clawed through the thick rain and wind.  |

**Task 2.** Find definitions for the following words used above:

Turbulence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dizzying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Wailing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Monotonously \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Example 2: Think about a place that is special or memorable. Write a description of the place and what makes it special or memorable.*

*This question tests your ability to describe a place and the emotions you connect with it. You need to give the reader an insight into the place and your feelings towards it.*

**Task 3.** Match the sentences below to the correct labels.

**Alliteration**

**Personification**

**Metaphor**

**Direct Speech**

**Simile**

|  |
| --- |
| A blanket of green shelters us overhead.  |
| Being here fills me with warmth, like a glass of hot chocolate on a cold winter’s day.  |
| The trees whisper soothing messages in my ears as we pass through the woodland.  |
| “Isn’t it perfect?” my little brother asks, staring up into the branches.  |
| Slithering down the sloping dunes into the sea, the golden sand glistens in the sunlight.  |

**Task 4.** Find definitions for the following words used above:

Shelter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Soothing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Glistens \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Slithering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Example 3: Describe a moment in your life when you felt frightened.*

*This question tests your ability to convey your feelings and describe the situation which made you feel frightened.*



**Using the senses**

**for effect**

*Good description tells us what impression the world would make on our senses. We need to consider how to convey to the reader our sense of sight, smell, sound, taste and touch.*

**Task 5.** *Read the following passage which describes a sailor caught in a storm.* Highlight and label where the writer is using their senses to convey the fear of the situation.

*By midnight on the first night [the wind] had blown up. The barometer fell and the wind howled through the rigging. Changing sails on the foredeck was lethal. Kingfisher tried her best to cling to the water’s surface while I just tried to cling to her. I was being pounded, thrown again and again on to the deck as her hull flicked up to hit me while I was slammed down by the motion of falling from the wave before – it was unrelenting. With each impact I closed my eyes and gritted my teeth, hanging on as tightly as possible. I tried everything to calm her, but the waves were enormous, and whether we charged over them or fell down them, it was going to hurt.*

*Ellen MacArthur, ‘Taking on the World.’*

**Task 6.** Complete the table below, planning how you could use the senses to describe a time when you felt frightened.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sight |  |
| Sound |  |
| Smell |  |
| Taste |  |
| Touch |  |

**Task 7.** Now develop some descriptive devices that you could include in your description of the frightening experience.

*Simile*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Metaphor*

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*Onomatopoeia*

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*Alliteration*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Direct Speech*

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**Task 8.** Describe a moment in your life when you felt frightened. Using the ideas you have developed, write your description below.

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Continue on a separate sheet.

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