

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING PRACTICE

Here we have five boring, un-descriptive nouns: “house,” “shoes,” “fruit,” “car” and “dog.” None of these nouns really conveys a clear or specific picture; they are too vague. So, for each boring noun, try to come up with a few more specific synonyms instead. It can be a particular brand, breed or style (e.g. “Nike, Golden Retriever”) or just a synonym that conveys a clear image (i.e. “cottage, jalopy”). Finally, choose one of your synonyms and expand it into a brief description, adding a few more details to the picture.

1. “HOUSE”

What’s a more specific word that could mean...

- a. A cozy house? _____
- b. An expensive house? _____
- c. An old house? _____

Now choose one of those synonyms you came up with, and add some more details. Try to avoid adjectives and instead focus on more specific nouns. For instance, what sort of windows does the house have? What kind of yard or porch does it have? How tall is it? Does it have a chimney? Is there smoke coming from the chimney? What other details can you think of?

2. “SHOES”

What’s a more specific word that could mean...

- a. Casual shoes? _____
- b. Fancy shoes? _____

c. Athletic shoes? _____

Now choose one of those synonyms and describe the shoes in more detail.

3. "FRUIT"

What's a more specific word that could mean...

a. A weird fruit? _____

b. A sexy fruit? _____

c. A fruit that reminds you of summer? _____

Now choose one of those synonyms and describe the fruit in more detail.

4. "CAR"

What's a more specific word that could mean...

a. A poor person's car? _____

- b. A rich person's car? _____
- c. A practical car? _____

Now choose one of those synonyms and describe the car in more detail.

5. "DOG"

What's a more specific word that could mean...

- a. A big friendly dog? _____
- b. An annoying dog? _____
- c. An elegant dog? _____

Now choose one of those synonyms and describe the dog in more detail.
