

describe

verb

► Say it: de • scribe

35

Write it: _____

Academic Vocabulary Toolkit

Meaning

to say what someone or something is like

Example

Chris lovingly **described** his new _____ to me over the _____.



Forms

Present:
I/You/We/They describe
He/She/It describes

Past:
described

Family

- *Noun:* description
- *Adjective:* descriptive
- *Adverb:* descriptively

Word Partners

- accurately _____ You could **accurately describe** Michael Jordan as a basketball legend.
- _____ something in detail The newspaper article **described the tragedy in detail**.

Verbal Practice

Talk about It Read each sentence and think about how you would complete it.

Discuss your idea with your partner using the sentence frame.

Listen carefully to your partner's and classmates' ideas.

Write your favorite idea in the blank.

- 1 I would **describe** my best friend as someone who is _____.
- 2 My family often **describes** me as a _____ person.

Writing Practice

Collaborate Work with your partner to complete the sentence using the correct form of **describe** and appropriate content.

In the novel _____, the author _____ the lives of characters such as _____ in detail.

Your Turn Work independently to complete the sentence using the correct form of **describe** and appropriate content.

I would _____ the performer _____ as _____ and extremely _____.

Be an Academic Author Work independently to write two sentences. In your first sentence, use **describe** with the modal verb *would*. In your second sentence, use **describe** in the *simple present tense*.

① _____

 ② _____

grammar tip

Modal verbs are helping verbs that give additional meaning to the main verb. *Would* can be used to express a preference.

I **would describe** myself as organized.

He **would like** to meet her.

Write an Academic Paragraph Complete the paragraph using the correct form of **describe** and original content.

Whether you're writing fiction or _____ ①, the language you use to _____ ② the setting, characters, and _____ ③ of a story can make all the difference between a dull, _____ ④ text and a vibrant, exciting one. Using descriptive adjectives such as " _____ ⑤ " will make your readers feel like they are watching the story unfold right in front of them. For example, "The girl sat on the floor of the room" is far less interesting to imagine than "The _____ ⑥, freckled girl sat on the gleaming wood floor in the middle of the vast, empty room." The more precise and colorful that your descriptions are, the more _____ ⑦ the reader will become, and the more fun you'll have while writing.