

Lesson 1 Sensory Details



If you were in the midst of this scene, you would learn about everything around you by using all five of your senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting. When you look at the picture, you have to imagine the sounds, smells, textures, and tastes.

When you write a description, you should also use all five of your senses. How do you use your senses when you write? You use words that help readers use their senses.

Look at the picture again. What do you see? List some things here. Remember to help your readers see things, too. Do you see a stack of trays, or is it a "tower of blue trays"?

What I see: _____

Now, use your other senses and write what you might hear, smell, touch, and taste in this scene.

What I hear: _____

What I smell: _____

What I touch: _____

What I taste: _____

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Look back at your lists on page 20. Did you remember to use good sense words so that readers can see, hear, smell, touch, and taste what is in the scene, too? For example, if you wrote that you might hear noises in the kitchen, ask yourself what kind of noises they might be. Is it the *swoosh* of a dishwasher? Is it clanking plates, or the thud of the freezer door? Review your lists and try to add any other words that more clearly describe the sights, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes.

Now, you are going to put your words to work. Describe this scene so clearly that your reader will feel as if he or she is standing right in the middle of it. For this paragraph, organize your ideas by sense. First, describe the sights, then sounds, smells, textures, and tastes. Remember to indent the first sentence of your paragraph.
