

Review Exercises

Rewrite each expression, using a possessive form. [26]

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| 1. the cart of the oxen | 4. the pen of the calves |
| 2. the tail of the ox | 5. the game of the boys |
| 3. the ears of the donkey | 6. the book of my mother |

Challenge Exercises

Supply five meaningful adjectives to modify each of these nouns.

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| 1. table | 3. forest |
| 2. toad | 4. squirrel |

93. Writing Descriptions: Observing With Your Five Senses

In a description, a writer describes something he has seen, heard, or felt. A good description helps others to experience what the writer has experienced. Study the following paragraph.

The old cabin drooped in the midmorning sun, heedless of our rare visit. The ancient roof, blackened by sun and rain, still reached from one gable to the other, but it sagged feebly in the center. Its wooden shingles wore a shabby growth of green moss like a patched coat. Much glass had disappeared from the windows, although some remained. A spider had patched one empty place with her flimsy web. The door still hung on one hinge, ready to fall flat in the next fresh breeze or from the push of any schoolboy. The stone walls still stood, but here and there the frost and wind had torn out the plaster from between the stones, leaving cracks large enough to put one's finger into. Close against one wall grew a few gorgeous orange poppies. If they felt sad or lonely, they did not show it. They smiled back at the sun as brilliantly as any poppies would do anywhere.

The paragraph above does not tell a story. It does not show a problem to be solved, neither does it include dialogue. It simply describes a scene.

Lesson 93

Purpose: To teach the writing of descriptions based on careful observation.

Oral Review:

1. True or False?
 - a. The title of a story should be long enough to give the main facts of the story. (false)
 - b. The beginning of a story should arouse the reader's interest. (true)
 - c. The middle of a story should describe the conflict. (true)
 - d. A story should have dialogue only when it is necessary. (false)
 - e. The ending of a story should tell in plain words what lesson the story teaches. (false)
2. In writing directions, what order should you use? (the order things are to be done)

Review Exercises

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. the oxen's cart | 4. the calves' pen |
| 2. the ox's tail | 5. the boys' game |
| 3. the donkey's ears | 6. my mother's book |

Challenge Exercises

(Sample answers.)

1. sturdy, expensive, well-made, oak, maple, kitchen, large, fine, antique, rugged, crude, rickety
2. brown, plump, striped, warty, quick, wet, young, large, small, croaking
3. deep, dark, inviting, cool, dense, tropical, redwood, immense, green, wet
4. sleek, saucy, chattery, pert, brown, red, bushy-tailed, swift



3. In writing directions, what should you be careful to do? (Make sure the information is accurate. Write clearly so that the directions are simple to understand. Use transitional words like *first*, *second*, and *next*.)

Lesson Introduction: Have you ever gone through a hurricane? Did you ever experience the calm in the eye of a hurricane? Were you ever along to help on a cleanup crew after a hurricane?

Have you ever heard anyone describe what a hurricane is like? Have you ever heard or read a story by someone who was along on cleanup work?

We can learn many interesting and helpful things by reading what others have written about their experiences. Good descriptions help us to learn more about what others have seen. This lesson teaches some things that are helpful in writing good descriptions.