

Descriptive Writing: Transitions

Terrific Transitions Chart: This chart displays signal words and phrases specifically for descriptive writing. Once students decide how they will organize their descriptions, they then refer to this chart as a resource for space or direction, sequence or time, and major features transitions.

Terrific Transitions Card for the Descriptive Writing

Space
or
Direction

under..., over..., through..., around..., above...,
across..., between..., beside..., outside..., in back
off..., near..., down..., in the middle..., in between...,
off in the distance..., beyond..., deep under...,
along the side of... up..., sticking out from...

Sequence
or
Time

following the..., when..., before..., since..., throughout..., until...,
then, upon..., furthermore, shortly after...,
finally after the..., next, to begin, during the..., last, then,
at that moment, until, while..., soon, immediately after the...,
after..., now, while they..., on (date), earlier than...,
within the, from that day on, after a little while,
at the same time, the morning after, afterward, immediately,
quickly, suddenly, at once, after a bit, after a few days,
as long as..., in the meantime, in the past, lately,

Major
Features

one of the most important attributes of...,
the biggest..., the smallest..., the most impressive part of...,
another interesting feature of...,
the most noticeable characteristic of...

Character's Physical Features Word Bank

HAIR

tidy
fiery
lavish
ruffled
orderly
straight
spiked
bleached
cropped
fine
stringy
wavy
short
long
unkempt
drab
shimmering
glossy
shiny
flowing
curly
neat
messy
glistening
silky

EYES

sly
irresistible
tantalizing
wild
bold
apprehensive
hysterical
shy
terrified
fearful
dramatic
energetic
defeated
calculating
fiery
frightened
timid
nervous
tearful
translucent
radiant
opulent
fresh
jeweled
oval
vivid
glassy
bright
keen
perky
sparkled
intelligent
wide
beady
bloodshot
soulful
mysterious
suspicious
dazzling
dull
animated

LIPS

supple
full
wide
red
pink
chapped
cracked
glossy
shiny
puckering
pouty

NOSE

pointy
round
flat
wide
tiny
bulbous
bumpy

LEGS/ARMS

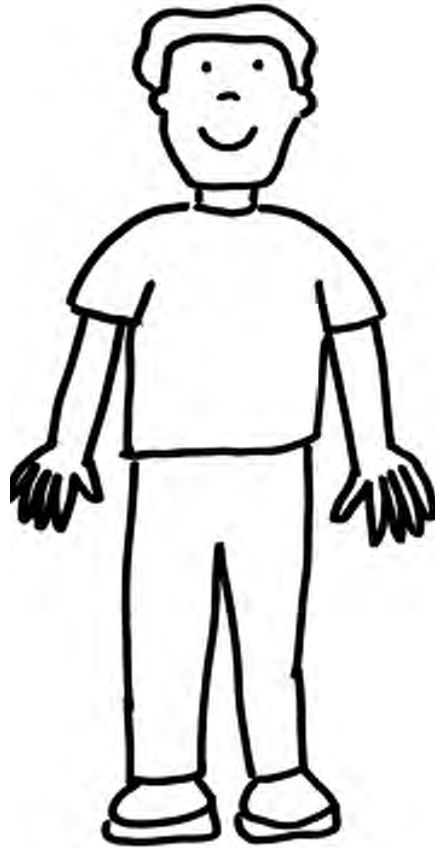
spindly
muscular
lanky
stretched
tiny
shapely
lumpy
skinny
crooked
lithe
short

SKIN

pleasant
handsome
scrubbed
splotchy
flush
sickly
pasty
bruised
pale
grimy
glistening
taut
youthful
smooth
rough
tan
weathered
blotched
iridescent
wrinkled
clear
freckled
glowing
spotted
sensitive

BODY

stout
rigid
chubby
wide
robust
sturdy
strong
healthy
frail
crooked
awkward
erect
tall
short
lean
slender
stretched
athletic
weak
massive
weighty
obese
bulky
cumbersome
slight
squatty
stumpy
compact
stubby
plump
bloated
dainty
puny
petite

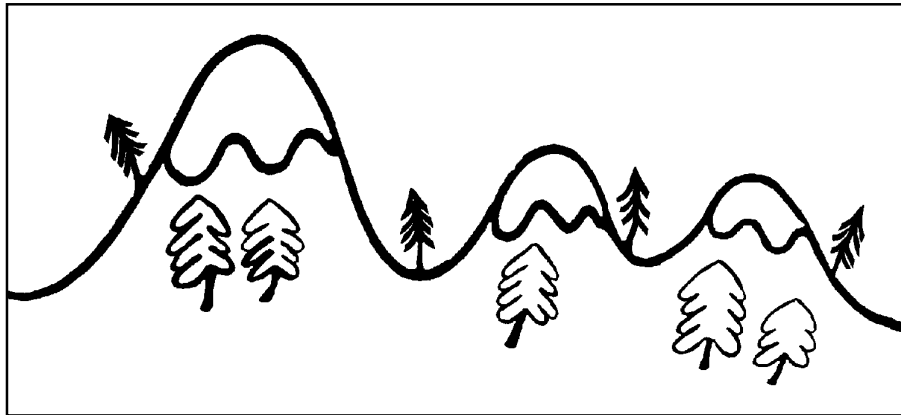


MY OWN DESCRIBING WORDS:

Setting Word Bank: Country

TREES

behemoth
big
colossal
enormous
towering
narrow
shady
gigantic
immense
tall
colorful
fragrant
nutty
wispy
pointy
bushy
thick
stout
wide



PLANTS

vibrant
thick
emerald
green
swaying
anchored
fresh
wet
dry
parched

SKY

blue
purple
dark
bright
wide
open
vast
large
massive
immense

WEATHER

breezy
sunny
calm
muggy
arid
dry
damp
frosty
crisp
cool
cold
chilly
slushy
icy
snowy
rainy
drizzling
quiet
crashing
deafening
harsh
growling
thunderous

WEATHER

sunny
lovely
bright
scorching
boiling
arid
hot
icy
slick
slushy
breezy
chilly
cold
cool
crisp
damp
frosty
snowy
stormy
cloudy
rainy
misty
muggy
humid

WATER

gleaming
sparkling
bright
shiny
flowing
blue
foaming
bubbling
bright
sapphire
hazy
murky
icy
chilly
fresh salty
stale
quiet
moaning
melodic
cooing
deafening
pounding
rushing

LAND

rocky
rugged
sandy
smooth
grassy
majestic
grand
vast
rolling
snow-capped

MY OWN DESCRIBING WORDS:

Setting Word Bank: City

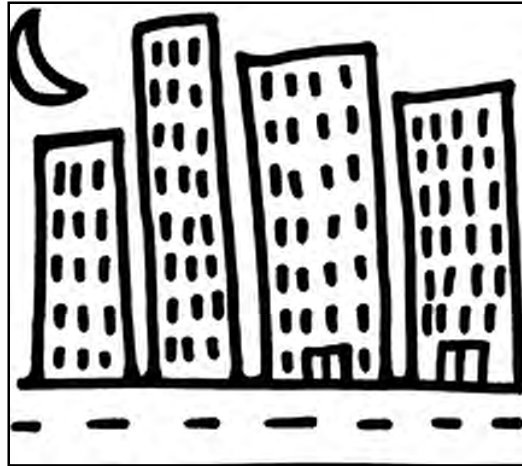
BUILDINGS

steely
 behemoth
 abundant
 colossal
 towering
 gigantic
 heavy
 immense
 ample
 huge
 mammoth
 large
 impressive
 great
 titanic
 vast
 massive
 fat
 plump
 portly
 stout

polished
 shiny
 glossy
 gleaming
 flashy
 bright
 glowing
 blinding
 brilliant
 vibrant
 aged
 antique
 time-worn

SOUNDS

honking
 buzzing
 blaring
 booming
 clattering
 crashing
 loud
 deafening
 screeching
 busy



VEHICLES

abundant
 crowded
 shiny
 gleaming
 sparkling
 colorful
 large
 small
 dirty
 unclean
 dusty
 filthy
 racing
 growling
 honking
 screeching
 swerving

STREETS

polluted
 dingy
 messy
 hot
 sweltering
 hard
 gray
 busy
 noisy

SMELLS

choking
 putrid
 rotten
 smoky
 stifling
 stale
 ripe
 savory
 tangy
 sweet
 peppery
 spicy
 strong
 fragrant

PEOPLE

loud
 quiet
 busy
 aggravated
 annoyed
 harsh
 impatient
 snarling
 savory
 rotten
 singing
 dancing
 preaching
 yelling

chubby
 wide
 robust
 sturdy
 strong
 healthy
 frail
 crooked
 awkward
 erect
 tall
 short
 lean
 slender
 stretched
 athletic
 weak
 massive
 weighty
 obese
 bulky
 cumbersome
 slight
 squatty

WINDOWS

clean
 spotless
 immaculate
 purified
 tidy
 fresh
 sterile
 immaculate
 scrubbed
 unclean
 dusty
 filthy
 squalid
 sordid
 foul
 impure
 polluted
 dingy
 messy

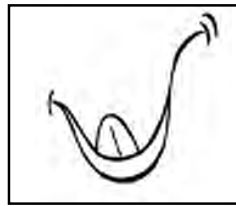
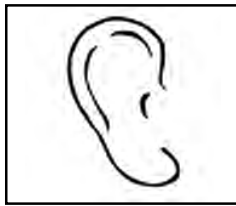
MY OWN DESCRIBING WORDS:

5-Senses Word Bank



<u>BRIGHTNESS</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>SPEED</u>	<u>TEXTURE</u>	<u>TEXTURE</u>
polished	big	black	white	fast	tough	oily
shiny	behemoth	jet	milky	speedy	wiry	drenched
glossy	abundant	ebony	bleached	rapidly	leathery	misty
gleaming	colossal	inky	colorless	quickly	rocky	dripping
flashy	towering	raven	snowy	accelerated	rubbery	saturated
bright	gigantic	coal	blanched		stony	soaked
glowing	heavy	dark	alabaster		irregular	rainy
blinding	immense		ivory	slow	craggy	humid
brilliant	ample		chalky	leisurely	ragged	muggy
vibrant	huge	brown	creamy	dragging	shaggy	dewy
	mammoth	amber	pearly	sluggish	gnarled	damp
	large	brunette		poky	scraggly	wet
foggy	impressive	sepia		laggard	corrugated	
hazy	great	tawny	red	slacken	coarse	
misty	titanic	cafe	ruby		splintery	
shady	vast	henna	coral		bumpy	
drab	massive	rusty	scarlet	<u>SHAPE</u>	unlevel	
cloudy	fat	chocolate	salmon	crooked	gritty	
dim	plump	cinnamon	cherry	bent	rugged	
muddy	portly	topaz	cardinal	twisted	broken	
shadowy	blubbery	umber	rust	curved	ruffled	
murky	stout	coffee	flame	hooked	knotty	
obscure		sandy	tomato	zig-zagged	scaly	
sooty		almond	wine	angular	harsh	
	narrow			square	gritty	
	meager			circular	sharp	
	little	blue	gray	triangular	crinkled	
	tiny	peacock	ash	wavy	dimpled	
	scanty	aquamarine	steel	lumpy		
	small	indigo				
	miniature	sea	green		brittle	
	petite	azure	emerald		twiggy	
	slight	navy	apple		fragile	
	short	turquoise	moss		soft	
	skinny	royal	jade		feathery	
	gaunt	cobalt	mint		fuzzy	
	scrawny	sapphire	celery		wispy	
	lean		lime		delicate	
	lanky		chartreuse			
	bony				slick	
	thin				flat	
	slender				satiny	
					velvety	
					creamy	
					slippery	

5-Senses Word Bank



TEMPERATURE

dry
 parched
 arid
 moistureless
 scorching
 dehydrated
 hot
 heated
 boiling
 fiery
 toasty
 sizzling
 searing
 flaming
 burning
 thermal
 scalding
 simmering
 parching
 incandescent

frosty
 icy
 bitterly
 breezy
 chilly
 cold
 crisp
 freezing

FLEXIBILITY

firm
 rigid
 solid
 steely
 stiff

 soft
 limp
 flexible
 relaxed
 feathery
 tender
 pliable

SOUND

banging
 deafening
 buzzing
 booming
 clattering
 crashing
 loud
 hissing
 screeching
 high-pitched
 crunchy
 popping
 slurping
 snapping
 splashing
 splattering
 rustling
 squawking
 roaring
 piercing
 exploding
 thunderous
 pattering
 stomping
 hissing
 gurgling
 clapping
 crackling
 swishing
 noisy
 whirring

faint
 hushed
 silent
 purring
 tippy-tapping
 humming
 melodic
 still
 quiet
 low
 soft
 hushed
 muffled

FLAVOR

peppery
 spicy
 burnt
 bitter
 buttery
 crispy
 juicy
 salty
 sour
 sweet
 tart
 tingly
 tangy

 stringy
 rotten
 bittersweet
 ripe
 bland
 rancid
 earthy
 decayed
 old
 used
 stale
 moldy

SMELL

spoiled
 rancid
 sickly
 gamy
 dank
 reeking
 strong
 odorous
 fishy
 choking
 stale
 gaseous
 musty
 mildewed

 fresh
 fragrant
 scented
 clean
 tangy
 sweet
 antiseptic
 mild
 nutty
 spicy
 peppery
 tart
 salty
 savory
 smoky
 minty

Emotions or Feelings Word Bank

SAD

sorrowful
gloomy
cheerless
grave
melancholy
desolate
unhappy
anguished
mournful
dejected
distressed
dispairing
hopeless

MEAN

nasty
vile
terrible
wretched
cruel
unkind
thoughtless
dastardly
rude

DIFFICULT

tough
burdensome
uphill
rough
arduous

MAD

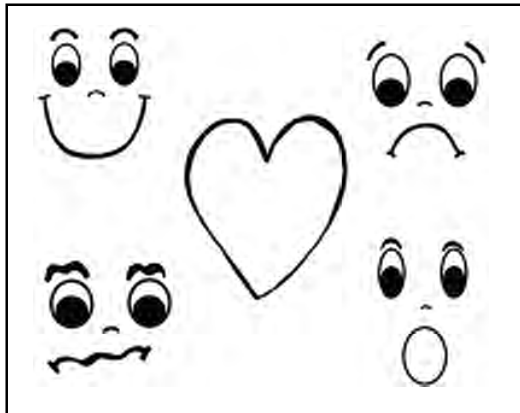
angry
callous
fuming
wicked
aggravated
annoyed
harsh
impatient
disagreeable
provoked
enraged
indignant
snarling
irate

BAD

vicious
wicked
profane
awful
dreadful
abominable
atrocious
naughty
unpleasant

MOODY

glum
mopish
sulky
sullen
testy
touchy
cranky
tired
exhausted
sleepy



SNOTTY

aloof
pretentious
smug
arrogant
self-centered
snobbish
haughty
conceited
pompous
vain

SCARED

frightened
panicked
alarmed
shocked
fearful
petrified
fainthearted
panicky
terrified
horrificed
startled
afraid
apprehensive

SILLY

ridiculous
simple
unwise
nonsensical
absurd
giddy
ludicrous
foolish
senseless
witless

STRANGE

weird
mystical
odd
unfamiliar
exotic
mysterious
unusual
alien
abnormal
eccentric
outlandish

FUNNY

amusing
ludicrous
comical
witty
curious
laughable
cheerful
humorous
whimsical
jocular

HAPPY

glad
joyous
merry
ecstatic
elated
jolly
contented
exultant

GOOD

smooth
benevolent
excellent
sufficient
competent
useful
right
merituous
superior
worthy
upright
propitious
conscientious
optimistic

NICE

sweet
adorable
delightful
charming
cultured
fastidious
tasteful
genteel
delicate
pleasant
amiable
cordial
pleasing
enjoyable
proper
meticulous
appealing

BRAVE

courageous
fearless
dauntless
intrepid
daring
heroic
valorous
audacious
bold
gallant
valiant

CALM

quiet
peaceful
still
tranquil
mild
serene
smooth
composed
relaxed
mellow
cool
laid-back

MY OWN DESCRIBING WORDS:

Personalities & Styles Word Bank

AMAZING

incredible
unbelievable
fabulous
wonderful
fantastic
astonishing
astounding
extraordinary

INTERESTING

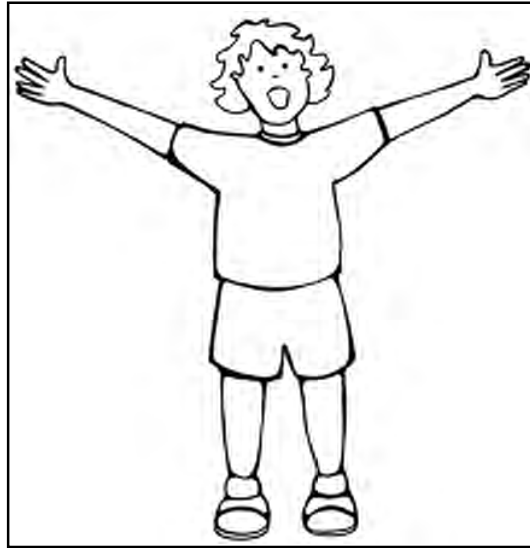
clever
engaging
fascinating
absorbing
engrossing
captivating
appealing
enthraling

SMART

astute
sparkling
bright
clever
quick
witty
sharp
intelligent
shrewd
brilliant
genius

PRETTY

attractive
exquisite
elegant
striking
dazzling
beautiful
pleasing
handsome
appealing
lovely
gorgeous
splendid
magnificent
fair
ravishing
graceful
fine
delicate
stunning
glowing
dainty
charming



CLEAN

spotless
immaculate
purified
tidy
fresh
sterile
immaculate
scrubbed

DIRTY

unclean
dusty
filthy
squalid
sordid
foul
impure
polluted
dingy
messy

OLD

aged
antique
time-worn
crumbling
tired
used
decaying
antiquated
elderly
ancient
weathered
dilapidated

DUMB

dull
inactive
obtuse
sluggish
unwitty
unintelligent
slow
stupid

UGLY

grotesque
repulsive
gruesome
ghoulish
hideous
unsightly

SNEAKY

secretive
dishonest
stealth-like
quietly

WILD

uncontrollable
hyper
crazed
noisy
active
nervous
energetic
vigorous
dynamic
tireless

EMBARRASSING

ashamed
uncomfortable
guilty
squirring

MY OWN DESCRIBING WORDS:

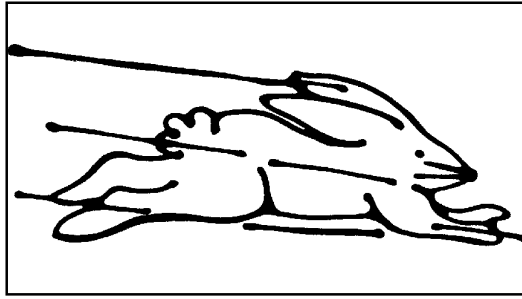
Actions Word Bank

RUN

bolted
raced
darted
hastened
spurted
charged
scuttled
rushed
whizzed
galloped
dashed
scurried
hustled
stampeded
scampered
trotted
bounded
skipped
rushed
chased
plunged
swerved
hurled
sprinted
bolted
flew
zipped
whisked
sailed
propelled
plummeted
sprung
swooped
ripped
rammed

WALK

strutted
strolled
hiked
pranced
treaded
march
promenaded
trekked
journeyed
paraded
tramped
toddled
rambled
wandered
trudged
meandered
toured
snuck
crawled
edged
swayed
slunk
waddled
staggered
lumbered
crept
dragged
fluttered
drooped
loitered
plodded
drifted
slouched
strayed
tiptoed



LOOK

surveyed
spotted
spied
gazed
glanced
examined
noticed
squinted
observed
stared
viewed
peeked
gawked
detected
glimpsed
concentrated
pondered
wondered

YELL

screamed
shouted
shrieked
squalled
screached
barked
ranting
bellowed
hooted
yelped
roared
raved
exclaimed
boomed
ordered

SAID

assured
explained
predicted
reasoned
suggested
giggled
chuckled
informed
laughed
prayed
reassured
stated
addressed
agreed
expressed
granted
jested
mentioned
quoted
called
advised
advocated
affirmed
answered
apologized
commented
cheered

SAID

demanded
fumed
grumbled
dared
muttered
mumbled
stammered
stuttered

Move

squeezed
tickled
exercised
twirled
twisted
lifted
bounced
flipped
rolled
scratched
blistered
disobeyed
bullied
snatched
whacked
walloped
swatted
smashed
heaved
captured
missed

MY OWN DESCRIBING WORDS: