



# SENSORY DETAILS

# Sensory details

are bits of information that you collect through your five senses.



**sight**

**sound**

**touch**

**taste**

**smell**

**When you elaborate with **sensory details**, you give the reader a much clearer idea of what you are describing.**



**Sensory details** are often used to set the *mood* of a piece of writing.

Exciting

Gloomy

Suspenseful

Happy

Frightening

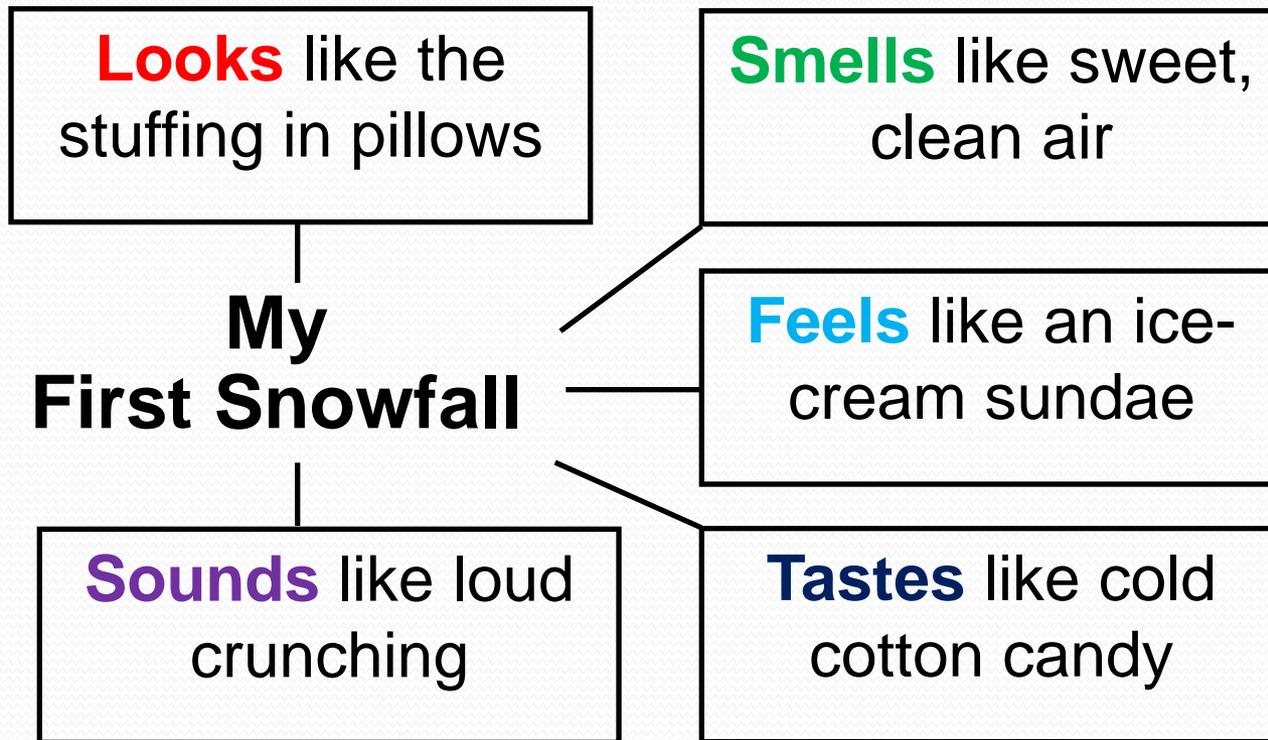
Calm

Cheerful

Depressing

Peaceful

Use **sensory details** to add to your writing.



# Paragraph A

Prompt: *Describe a place you enjoying going to.*

I like to go to the beach. There is a lot of sand and even some trees there. People play games on the beach, and some people like to swim. I used to go to the beach very often.

# Paragraph B

Prompt: *Describe a place you enjoying going to.*

One place I enjoying going to is where the land and the ocean meet. This beautiful spot is my sanctuary in the sun—and I choose it very carefully. I look for a cool place under the trees and extend my mat on the white sand. The wind that blows through the trees often carries a light sprinkle from the ocean, and a hint of saltiness. Peace consumes me whenever I see that beautiful white sand. Mixed with the calming sound of the waves hitting the rocks in the distance, are giggles from the children building castles. Here is where happiness lies, with its toes in the sand right beside me.



Which paragraph is more interesting? Why?

Which paragraph helps you to "see" the beach in your mind? How does the writer do this?

## PRACTICE

Rewrite one of the following sentences, adding **sensory details** to it.

- 1) We drove through the desert last summer on our vacation.
- 2) I remember my first trip to a movie theater.
- 3) The weather outside is changing now that fall is here.





Pick a noun (person, place, thing, object, scene) to describe-- it can be anything recognizable.

Write one paragraph describing it using **all five** of the sensory details.

*You are not allowed to say what you are describing!*

*What scene, place or object is being described in this example?*

*Can you spot the sensory details?*

As daylight breaks, restless winds sneak into my room causing little bumps on my arms to form. I have no choice but to wake from my dream. The bright reflection caused by the white, fluffy substance blanketing my back yard forces my eyes to squint, as I throw open the window curtains. Squeals and muffled laughter from the playful kids next door catch my attention. I rush down the stairs to put on my gear, and I run out into the bitter cold to join them. But after playing for an hour, I'm convinced to come back inside. The brisk air that grabs at my lungs, and the numbness of my toes in my boots have won. But the delicious aroma of Mom's hot chocolate comforts me. It is soothingly warm as it melts down my throat and tastes like heaven on my lips.

*Answer: WINTER TIME*  
*Did you spot the sensory details?*

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KEY: *Red- sense of smell*      *Blue- sight*      *Green- sound/hearing*  
*Purple- taste*                      *Light blue- feel*

*What scene, place or object is being described in this example?*

*Can you spot the sensory details?*

The sweet smell of sugar seems to call me in the evenings. The lure of its deliciousness is hard to resist. When the temptation is too much to handle, I tip-toe into the kitchen, past the judgmental eyes of the photos hanging on the wall, and over the cracking sounds of the hardwood floors. The sight of those beautifully-rounded treats only increases the pounding of my heart and salivating in my mouth. “M” means *mine*; all mine! The taste of its succulent, melting goodness on my tongue causes all my senses to celebrate. Mmm & Mmm good!

*ANSWER: M&Ms candy*  
*Did you spot the sensory details?*

The **sweet smell of sugar** seems to call me in the evenings. The **lure of its deliciousness** is hard to resist. When the temptation is too much to handle, I **tip-toe into the kitchen**, past **the judgmental eyes** of the photos hanging on the wall, and over the **cracking sounds of the hardwood floors**. The sight of those beautifully-rounded treats only increases **the pounding of my heart** and **salivating in my mouth**. “M” means *mine*; all mine! The **taste of its succulent, melting goodness on my tongue** causes all my senses to celebrate. Mmm & Mmm good!

**KEY:**

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## Questions for Revising a Descriptive Paragraph

Have I focused on a topic/ main idea?

Have I created a strong impression?

Have I created a vivid mental image through the use of sensory details?

Do my details support my topic/main idea?

Have I used concrete words/descriptive adjectives ?

Have I used transition words to signal organization of details?