INDESCRIBABLE

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn new adjectives, learn how to use adjectives and practice using them in English.

Activity One - Describe what your partner looks like today.

Activity Two - Read the articles and descriptions.



Have you ever been lost a words faced with a beautiful view? Do you know how to describe textures? Do you know how to describe sound? Do you know how to describe all the sites you see? With the right adjectives we can describe everything around us. We can talk about the environment surrounding us, about the textures, the light ,the colours and the mood of any particular setting in life or fiction.We can talk about our feeling. We can make a beautiful thing come alive with objectives. We can share what we have seen what we have experience.

Let's practice reading the descriptions. Pay attention to your information and stress.Try to guess what type of environment or setting is being described. Identify the adjectives. Say what time of the day it is and situate the location.

Description One - All around the dunes seem to reflect the setting sun with colours of amber, orange and gold. The stifling heat of the day is subsiding. The sound of the waves is loud and regular and as I walk along the I feel the cool wet sand under my feet. A big wave suddenly laps over my feet, reaching my legs and wetting my jeans. The damp material sticks to my legs. As I walk back to the hotel the dry sand clings to my feet. Finding my abandoned sandals I stop to clean off the sand from between my toes. It feels rough and uncomfortable and is hard to remove. I try to make myself look a little more respectable before walking up to the hotel bar. The lights twinkle and a delicious aroma of grilled meats reaches me before I reach the steps. In the bar a crowd of suntanned holiday makers discuss their day over brightly coloured cocktails. Relaxing music is played by a group of three musicians. They strum quietly and drum out a regular rhythm which melts into the surrounding hum of conversation. I order a Jack Daniels and sit back into my chair to enjoy the atmosphere and the bitter sweet taste of my drink, as the melting ice clinks against my glass.



Description Two - The air is dry and cold. The icy path is treacherous under foot. As I climb the steep and windy road my breath is foggy. At least the effort warms me up. Soon I reach thicker snow and have to pick my feet up as I walk. The morning sunshine reflects on the snow which shines like millions of tiny crystals. At the top of the hill the view of the mountains is breathtaking. Against a clear blue sky I see the distant peaks of snowcapped mountains across the valley. The air is crisp and clear. The sky is a flawless blue. It's still very quiet in the village. Windows are dark, everything is still. As I stand there contemplating my options I notice a movement to my left. The door of a small café is opens and makes a creaking sound. Someone steps out into the light carrying some comfortable chairs. I light a cigarette as I wait for him to set up. The grey swirling smoke rises into the air above me, clear to see against the perfect sky. I stroll over to the newly set up terrace and sink into one of the inviting chairs. I order a coffee and croissant. The coffee is hot and bitter. The croissant buttery and soft melts in my mouth. This is the life I think.

Description Three

A thick carpet of damp multi coloured leaves stretches ahead as far as I can see. The thick branches of evergreen trees form a curtain above my head. From time to time a squirrel darts out ahead of me, it's little black eyes flashing as is scurries up another tree. Below the river reflects the sunlight in a silvery shiny trail. The current is strong and the water is alive with movement. When I reach a clearing between the trees the suns bright rays surprise me with their intensity and suddenly I am sweating as the heat of the new afternoon makes my think coat unnecessary. My boots are now muddy and walking is more difficult. The leaves are quite sloppy after the recent rain. Ahead the forrest is thicker, the foliage dense. As the windy path twists to the left I feel cooler.



Activity Three: IMAGINE A SCENE...

Now close your eyes and **imagine** the scenery of a place where you feel good. Where you feel relaxed. Where you were inspired by the beauty around you. Describe the scene to your partner. Feel free to use an dictionary for this activity. Your partner should write a list of all the adjectives you use. At the end of the activity tell the rest of the class which adjectives you found.

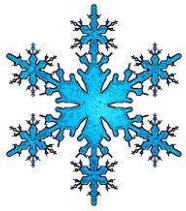






ACTIVITY FOUR - ADJECTIVES IN ENGLISH

Adjectives describe or give information about nouns. For example:- The grey dog barked. (The adjective grey describes the noun "dog".) The good news is that in English the form of an adjective does not change. It does not change - if the noun being described is male or female, singular or plural, subject or object, it stays the same.
There are different types of adjectives in the English language:



- Numeric: six, one hundred and one
- Quantitative: more, all, some, half, more than enough
- Qualitative: colour, size, smell etc.
- Possessive: my, his, their, your
- Interrogative: which, whose, what
- Demonstrative: this, that, those, these

Most English sentences (clauses) conform to the SVO word order. This means that the Subject comes before the Verb, which comes before the Object. Examples:



- I (S) bought (V) a new computer (O).
- She (S) doesn't like (V) dogs (O).
- Why did you (S) do (V) that (O)?

When using more than one adjective to describe a noun place the adjectives in the following order before the noun.NOTE: We usually use no more than three adjectives preceding a noun.

1. Opinion Example: an interesting book, a boring lecture
2. Dimension Example: a big apple, a thin wallet
3. Age Example: a new car, a modern building, an ancient ruin
4. Shape Example: a square box, an oval mask, a round ball
5. Colour Example: a pink hat, a blue book, a black coat
6. Origin Example: some Italian shoes, a Canadian town, an American car
7. Material Example: a wooden box, a woollen sweater, a plastic toy.

EXAMPLES:

- The interesting pink hat not ~~the pink interesting hat.~~
- The big wooden box ~~not the wooden big box.~~
- The new plastic floor ~~not the plastic new floor.~~
- The boring French film ~~not the French boring film.~~



ACTIVITY FIVE - TWENTY QUESTIONS

In teams. Take turns describing a place in your town. The people in the opposite team have to ask questions (only yes or no questions) to find out where it is. After each question you describe a little more until they guess what you are describing. Let's see who can describe a place so well that everyone can guess quickly.

ACTIVITY SIX - ROLE PLAYS.

A. You are reporting a crime. You are at the police station trying to describe the person who stole your wallet from a table in a bar. However you are very drunk. It sounds like you are describing Mickey Mouse.

B. You are meeting a wedding planner and describing your ideal wedding setting in detail. It's very ornate and not very good taste but your wedding planner tries to be polite an enthusiastic anyway.

C. You are with your hairdresser trying to explain exactly how you want your hair to be. You describe the colour and shape as well as you can but when it is finished it's not at all the way you wanted it to be.

D. You are with a dating service describing your ideal partner. When the person in charge of the agency shows you pictures of the dates she can arrange for you, you are very disappointed as you don't think they match the descriptions you gave.

ACTIVITY SEVEN - Landscapes.

Describe the landscapes you can see on this video presentation.

ACTIVITY EIGHT - With a partner. Guess what your partner is describing.

1. Describe a room and your partner has to guess which room.
2. Describe a famous person your partner has to identify from your description.
3. Describe a well known place which your partner has to identify.
4. Describe a food which you like and see if your partner can guess what it is.
5. Describe the type of wine or soft drink that you like.

