

University of Setif 2
Faculty of Letters and Languages
Department of English Language and Literature
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Describing and Comparing People, Places, or Habits

1. Describing People:

When describing people, focus on **physical appearance, personality, and behavior**. Use adjectives to make your description clear and specific.

- **Physical Appearance:** height, build, hair, eyes, age, style
 - Examples: “She is tall and slim with long brown hair.”
 - “He has short curly hair and wears glasses.”
- **Personality Traits:** kind, friendly, shy, confident, hardworking
 - Examples: “My friend is very friendly and helpful.”
 - “He is hardworking and always completes tasks on time.”
- **Behavior and Habits:** gestures, activities, mannerisms
 - Examples: “She always smiles and greets everyone warmly.”
 - “He likes reading books in the evening.”

2. Describing Places:

When describing places, focus on **location, appearance, atmosphere, and facilities**.

- **Appearance:** big, small, modern, old, clean, beautiful, crowded
 - Examples: “The park is large and green with many flowers.”
 - “The city center is crowded but very lively.”

- **Atmosphere:** quiet, peaceful, noisy, friendly, welcoming
 - Examples: “The library is quiet and perfect for studying.”
 - “The café has a friendly atmosphere with soft music.”
- **Facilities or Activities:** shops, playgrounds, restaurants, transportation
 - Examples: “The beach has many restaurants and places to relax.”
 - “The school has a large library and a sports field.”

3. Describing Habits or Routines:

When describing habits, focus on **frequency, activities, and preferences**. Use adverbs of frequency and time expressions.

- **Adverbs of frequency:** always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, never
 - Examples: “I usually go jogging in the morning.”
 - “She often reads books before going to bed.”
- **Daily Routines or Preferences:** eating, working, studying, leisure activities
 - Examples: “He wakes up early and drinks coffee every morning.”
 - “They enjoy watching movies on weekends.”

4. Comparing People, Places, or Habits:

Comparisons help describe similarities and differences. Use **comparative and superlative forms**, as well as linking phrases.

- **Comparative adjectives:** taller, smaller, more interesting, less crowded
 - Examples: “This café is quieter than the one near the station.”
 - “She is taller than her sister.”
- **Superlative adjectives:** the tallest, the most beautiful, the best
 - Examples: “This is the most beautiful park in the city.”
 - “He is the smartest student in the class.”
- **Linking phrases for comparison:**
 - “Compared to...,” “In contrast to...,” “Similarly...,” “On the other hand...”

- Examples: “Compared to my old school, this school has better facilities.”
- “He is friendly, whereas his brother is very shy.”
- **Comparing habits:**
 - Use “more than” or “less than”:
 - “I exercise more than my friend.”
 - “She drinks less coffee than her colleague.”
 - Use “as...as” for equality:
 - “My city is as lively as the capital.”
 - “He is as hardworking as his sister.”

5. Tips for Clear Descriptions and Comparisons:

- Use **specific adjectives** instead of vague words like “nice” or “good.”
- Organize your description logically: appearance → personality → behavior (for people), or location → appearance → atmosphere → facilities (for places).
- Include **examples or details** to make your description vivid: “The café is small, but it has comfortable chairs and delicious coffee.”
- When comparing, clearly indicate what is being compared and how: “This park is quieter than the one near my house because fewer people visit it.”
- Practice both **speaking and writing** to improve fluency and clarity.

Describing and comparing allows learners to communicate **details, contrasts, and similarities** effectively in English. This involves vocabulary, grammar, sentence structures, and organizing information clearly.

1. Describing People – Advanced Details

When describing people, focus on **appearance, personality, behavior, and habits**, using vivid adjectives, adverbs, and examples.

Appearance: height, build, hair, eyes, skin, clothing, and accessories.

- “She is tall and athletic with long blonde hair and blue eyes.”
- “He is slightly overweight, has curly hair, and wears glasses.”
- “She usually wears casual clothes and always carries a notebook.”

Personality Traits: kind, friendly, shy, confident, cheerful, patient, creative.

- “He is very confident and outgoing; he enjoys meeting new people.”
- “She is patient and helpful, always ready to assist classmates.”

Behavior and Habits: gestures, routines, hobbies, social behavior.

- “He often reads in the evening and enjoys listening to classical music.”
- “She always greets everyone with a smile and tries to make people feel comfortable.”

Advanced Tip: Use combinations for richness:

- “My friend is tall, cheerful, and loves playing the piano in her free time.”

2. Describing Places – Advanced Details

When describing places, include **appearance, location, atmosphere, facilities, and purpose**, and use adjectives and adverbs for vividness.

Appearance and Size: small, spacious, modern, historical, luxurious, crowded.

- “The museum is large and modern, with bright lighting and spacious halls.”

Atmosphere or Mood: lively, peaceful, welcoming, noisy, relaxing.

- “The café has a relaxed atmosphere with soft music and comfortable chairs.”

Facilities and Activities: shops, restaurants, parks, libraries, transport, sports areas.

- “The city park has playgrounds, walking paths, and a small café where people meet in the afternoon.”

Advanced Tip: Add your **personal opinion or emotional response**:

- “I love this park because it’s peaceful and perfect for reading on weekends.”

3. Describing Habits and Routines – Advanced Details

Use **adverbs of frequency, time expressions, and preference verbs** to describe routines and habits.

Frequency: always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, never.

- “She always drinks tea in the morning before going to work.”

Time Expressions: in the morning, at night, every day, on weekends, once a week.

- “I usually go jogging in the park on weekends.”

Preferences and Likes/Dislikes: like, prefer, enjoy, love, hate, don’t mind.

- “He prefers reading books to watching TV.”
- “She enjoys cooking and tries new recipes every week.”

Advanced Tip: Include details and comparisons in routines:

- “I usually wake up earlier than my brother because I like jogging in the quiet morning hours.”

4. Comparing People, Places, or Habits – Advanced Details

Comparisons help show **differences, similarities, and extremes**. Use **comparatives, superlatives, and linking expressions**.

Comparative Adjectives: taller, smaller, more interesting, less crowded.

- “This café is quieter than the one near the station.”
- “He is taller than his brother.”

Superlative Adjectives: the tallest, the most beautiful, the best, the least interesting.

- “This is the most beautiful park in the city.”
- “She is the kindest person I know.”

Linking Words and Phrases: for contrasts, similarities, and elaboration.

- “Compared to...,” “In contrast to...,” “Similarly...,” “On the other hand...,” “Unlike...”
- “Compared to my old school, this school has better facilities.”
- “He is friendly, whereas his sister is very shy.”
- “Similarly, both cities are lively, but the capital is much more crowded.”

Comparing Habits:

- Use more/less + noun/verb:
 - “I exercise more than my friend.”
 - “She drinks less coffee than her colleague.”
- Use as...as for equality:
 - “My city is as lively as the capital.”

- “He is as hardworking as his sister.”

Advanced Tip: Use complex sentences for comparisons:

- “Although my school is smaller than my friend’s school, it has better facilities and a more welcoming atmosphere.”
- “She enjoys reading more than watching TV because it helps her relax and learn new vocabulary.”

5. Useful Expressions and Sentence Structures

For describing:

- “He/She is + adjective + and + adjective.”
- “It is + adjective + with + noun/feature.”
- “I like/love/enjoy + activity + because + reason.”

For comparing:

- “X is + comparative adjective + than + Y.”
- “X is the + superlative adjective + in/of + group/place.”
- “Compared to X, Y is + adjective.”
- “X is as + adjective + as + Y.”

Adding Details:

- Use adverbs: always, often, usually, sometimes, rarely.
- Include reasons: “because,” “since,” “as a result.”
- Add examples: “for example,” “such as.”

6. Tips for Clear Descriptions and Comparisons

1. **Be specific:** Avoid vague words like “nice” or “good”; use detailed adjectives.
2. **Organize logically:** People – appearance → personality → behavior; Places – location → appearance → facilities → atmosphere.
3. **Support opinions with reasons or examples:** “I like this café because it’s quiet and has comfortable chairs.”

4. **Compare clearly:** Make sure the two things being compared are obvious.
5. **Practice speaking and writing:** Role-play, describe pictures, write short paragraphs.