

Units 11 & 12 Writing worksheet

Writing a description of a person

GOAL: write a description of a person for a student writing competition.

Include: planning, drafting and editing; appropriate adjectives; well-ordered sentences; expressions for describing people.

1 Make a note of your answers to the three questions. Then describe one of the people. Your partner will guess which person you are talking about.

1 Who is your best friend?

2 Which famous person inspires you the most?

3 Which movie character do you like best?

2 Read the description for a student writing competition. Which person from Exercise 1 is the description about? Do you know someone like Janie?

Let me tell you about Janie as she's one of the best people I know. **[A]**

Her appearance is striking. She's tall and athletic. She looks like a famous tennis player, and people often ask her for her autograph. Despite this, she's always so modest. **[B]**

I'd describe Janie as both fun AND funny. She's fun because she has great ideas for things to do at the weekend and she's full of energy. She's funny because she tells hilarious stories. **[C]**

As I said, Janie is the best. She is the kindest person I know, and she's always ready to listen. **[D]** She's an amazing friend!

Writing skill planning, drafting and editing

Planning, drafting and editing will make your writing better.

Plan

- Read the instructions carefully.
- Brainstorm ideas.
- Choose the best, most relevant ideas to include in the writing.
- Think about the order of information.

Draft

- Use your plan to write your first draft.
- Use a dictionary to find interesting words and check spelling.
- Use your study notes and course book to check grammar.

Edit

- Read through your work.
- Check spelling and grammar.
- Check the order of ideas.
- Make changes and add or remove information if you need to.

3 Compare the sections of the first draft below with the text in Exercise 2. Underline the parts below that the writer changed. What kind of changes did the writer make?

Janie is very striking. She's big and strong. She looks a famous tennis player, and people often ask to sign something.

She's fun because she has great ideas for things to do at weekend. She funny because she tells silly stories.

Writing mechanics using appropriate words and phrases

Some words and phrases can mean similar things but have a more positive or more negative meaning. Focus on how certain words and phrases are used in the media when you read, watch and listen. Ask your teacher about the positive or negative meaning if you are not sure.

She's full of energy. – more positive

She tells silly stories. – more negative

4 Match the words and phrases with similar meanings. Underline the most positive in each pair.

striking
strong
full of energy
silly
amazing

good
hilarious
noticeable
athletic
active

Writing mechanics ordering sentences

In all types of writing, make sure you organise your sentences logically.

- Group sentences into topics to build strong paragraphs, for example:
 - 1 who the person is / the relationship you have with them
 - 2 what they look like
 - 3 what they're like (personality)
 - 4 why they're important to you
- Use topic sentences at the start of your paragraphs, for example:
I'm going to describe ...
He's my favourite actor because ...
She's got an unusual look.

5 Without looking, number the topic sentences from the text in Exercise 2 in the best order. Then check.

- ___ Janie's appearance is very striking.
- ___ As I said, Janie and I are best friends.
- ___ I would describe Janie as both fun AND funny.
- ___ Let me tell you about Janie.

6 Choose the best place (A–D) in the text in Exercise 2 to add each of these sentences. Explain your answers.

- 1 I love her jokes. ____
- 2 I can talk to her about anything. ____
- 3 And actually, she's terrible at tennis! ____
- 4 I feel very lucky to call her my friend. ____

WRITE

7 Read the instructions for a student writing competition. Decide who you are going to write about.

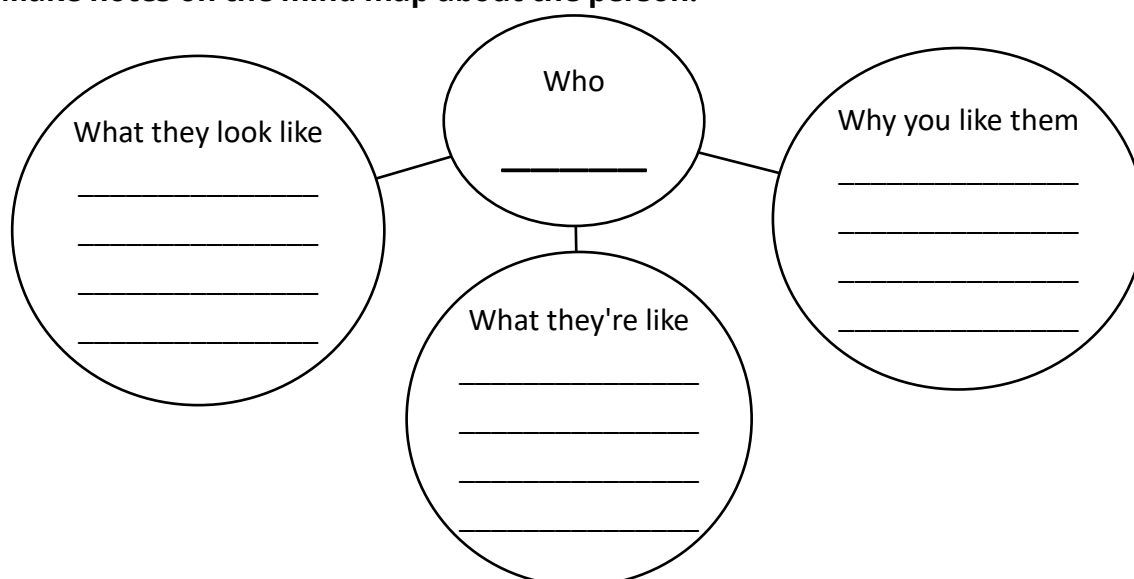
Student Writing Competition

Write an interesting description about one of the following:

- your best friend
- an inspiring famous person
- a movie character you like

Say what the person looks like, what they're like and why you like them. Write 80–100 words.

8 Make notes on the mind map about the person.



9 Review the mind map and decide which information to include in your description.

10 Look at the *Key language* box. Which expressions are in the text in Exercise 2?

Key language expressions for describing people

His/Her appearance is ...

He/She looks like ...

He/She seems...

People think he/she ...

People often ask him/her ...

I'd describe him/her... as both ... and ...

He/She's definitely not ...

He/She's the ... person I know.

He/She's (always) ...

11 Write your description. Use your plan, appropriate words and phrases, well-ordered sentences and strong paragraphs; expressions from the *Key language* box. Write 80–100 words.

12 Review your writing. Check your spelling and grammar. Make changes.

13 Read your partner's work and tick (✓) the checklist.

Has your partner ...

- ☐ ... planned the writing well?
- ☐ ... used well-ordered sentences?
- ☐ ... included appropriate words and phrases?
- ☐ ... used expressions for descriptions?