

Revision Exercise

This is a short exercise to help you practise for writing descriptively in an exam.

FIRST: Think back to an event from your childhood, which really sticks out in your memory. *It might be your first day at school?* Make a list of the first 5 things that come to mind when you remember it. These could be people, places, colours, objects, smells, sounds, emotions etc.

THEN: Quickly write down :

- 3 colours you remember about that event
- 3 sounds you remember about that event
- 3 smells you remember about that event
- 3 feelings you remember about the scene – angry, sad, happy, lonely, etc.

EXTENSION TASK: – Write three similes or metaphors to describe something from your memory – eg, a person, an object, a feeling.

A simile is when you compare something to something else using the words ‘as’ or ‘like’ – eg, ‘running like the wind’ ‘red as a rose’. A metaphor is a comparison without the words ‘as’ or ‘like’ – eg, the moon is a golf ball in the sky.

THEN: Try and remember a person who was involved – it might be a friend, or someone from your family. Write down as many things as you can that you remember about them – these might be colours they were wearing, how they talked, what they looked like etc.

NOW: Write about the event from your memory. Use the notes you’ve made to describe things in detail. Try to create a sense of atmosphere.

Make sure you get all the important details in, so the piece makes sense.