

Lesson 28: You will be able to Use Strong Verbs When Writing Supporting Details in a Descriptive Essay

Purpose of Lesson 28: You Will be Able to Use Strong Verbs When Writing Supporting Details in a Descriptive Essay.

Skills: creative thinking, reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing

Words to Learn:

emotion - a strong feeling: *The senator's speech was full of emotion.*

tantrum - a fit of anger: *The toddler had a tantrum over a broken toy.*

verb - a word that shows action: *"Laughed" is a verb in the sentence, "The woman laughed at the comedian's joke."*

Directions: Read the conversation below and do the exercises that follow.

1



I just got an e-mail from my cousin, Mary Ann. She is excited about the reunion. Do you remember we went to her birthday party when I was about five years old?

2

Of course I do. You wanted all her presents, and when you started to cry, I had to drag you out of there.



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3



I was so jealous and insulted that those gifts were not for me. I didn't understand. After all, I was only five years old. I remember crying until I couldn't catch my breath.

4

I disciplined you for throwing such a **tantrum**. You started grabbing the boxes away from your cousin and tearing off the paper. It was quite a scene.



5



Actions did speak louder than words in that case. I guess it was my first experience where I was not the center of attention!

6

You turned out to be a fantastic young lady in spite of your performance that day.



Action words, or verbs, can bring details to life in descriptive writing. When Strong verbs are used, they can breathe new life into an otherwise dull (boring) sentence. A feeling or emotion is no longer just a word. It is a vivid video that plays in your head as you read it. Writing with strong verbs turns that mental video into an action video.

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Continued after Quiz 1



Now that you understand what strong action words are, you can practice using those verbs to describe how someone is feeling. Using strong verbs to write descriptions puts the writer in the driver's seat. As a writer, you can control what you want to say and how you want to say it.

Continued after Quiz 3



"How hot was it?" Remember the punch line to that question? "It was so hot; you could fry an egg on the sidewalk." Strong action words can make people smile, laugh, or even cry. Practice your writing with strong verbs to pump up your descriptions.