

UNIT 4

Let's Go Somewhere!

(Descriptive)



Pic. 4.1 (<http://blog.paxholley.net>)

In this unit, you will learn how to

- respond to spoken monologue texts of descriptive;
- create spoken monologue texts of descriptive;
- identify the meanings, the linguistic features, and the text structure of written essays of descriptive;
- write essays of descriptive using the appropriate linguistic features and text structure.

Section One:

Spoken Descriptive

Presentation

Activity 1



Answer your teacher's questions about holidays.

- Have you ever been to a national park?
- When is the best time to visit the place? Why?
- When is the worst time to visit the place? Why?

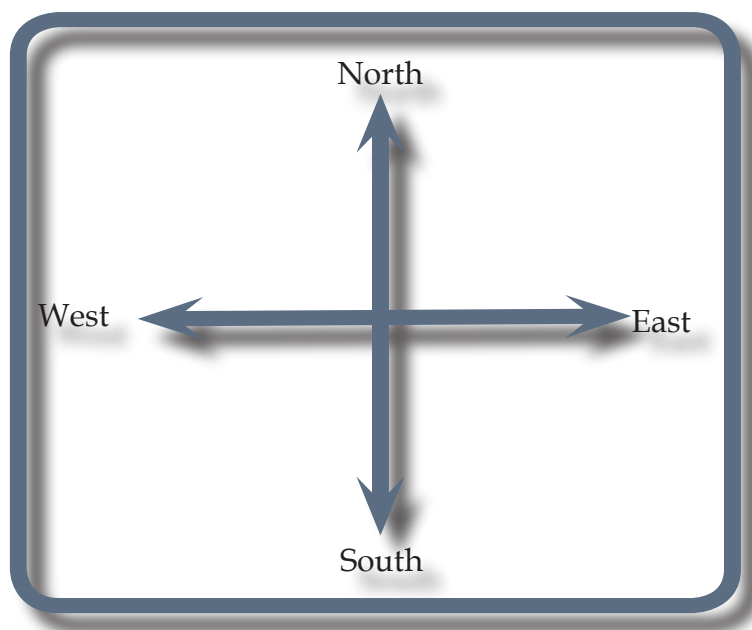
Activity 2



The following words will help you understand the texts you will find in this unit. Check the meaning and the pronunciation of the following words.

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------|
| beautiful | fun-loving | population |
| excellent | (to) sunbathe | race |
| famous | official (language) | ethnic group |
| outgoing | distinct | vast |
| friendly | accent | majority |
| descent | immigrant | scenery |

Compass rose



Activity 3



The following expressions will help you understand the texts you will find in this unit. Those are several ways of describing a place. Check the meaning and the pronunciation of the following expressions.

It's a beautiful place.
The beaches are excellent.
It's famous for
They're famous for
It sounds awful/terrible/nice.
I've never been there.

Listen to your teacher reading the above expressions, then repeat after him/her.

Activity 4



Your teacher is going to talk about Brazil. He/she will do it two or three times. Listen to him/her and pay attention to the way he/she talks.



Pic. 4.2 (<http://ludcarrera.com>)

BRAZIL

Does anybody know anything about Brazil? Yes, the football team is one of the best in the world. It has great players like Ronaldo, Ronaldinho, Adriano. **Now let me tell you** more about Brazil. **You know**, Brazil is the largest country in South America. **And..** it's also the fifth largest country in world. **Does anybody know** where Brazil is? **Yes**, it's located in the eastern part of South America. **Here...**look at the world map. **Remember** the compass rose? north..south..east..west.

Now what about the people? They are friendly, outgoing, and they also like to have fun. They're fun-loving people. **Well...**if you've heard about samba, then you must know that the samba dance is from Brazil. The people love to sing and dance the samba. **Oh...yes...**they also love to sunbathe... lying on the beach **..er..** to have their skin tanned...**I mean**, to make their skin darker.

Use these questions to help you understand the text.

Comprehension questions:

1. Where is Brazil located?
2. How large is Brazil?
3. How do you describe the people of Brazil?
4. What do Brazilians like to do?
5. Why do they like to sunbathe?

Activity 5



SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE.

Look at the examples below.

- A. It's a nice place.
- B. Does Hawaii have good beaches?
- C. The beaches are excellent.
- D. The weather is nice there. It's not very hot
- E. They are very interesting.

The above sentences show us how to talk about places. Notice that we use the Simple Present Tense. The simple present expresses general statements of fact, as shown in the above examples.

Read the following topics. Which ones can you discuss or write about with a simple present? Check (✓) your answers and discuss them with your friends.

- ___ 1. Traditions in your country.
- ___ 2. Your childhood.
- ___ 3. The geography of a country.
- ___ 4. A vacation you took.
- ___ 5. The description of a tourist place.

Practice

Activity 1



Close your book. Listen to your teacher reading the following text about a museum. Then, answer the questions that follow.

The Must-see Ambarawa Railway Museum



Pic. 4.3 (<http://www.panoramio.com>)

You can easily be accused of committing a tourism sin if you're in Semarang and failed to visit the Ambarawa Railway Museum.

This museum is situated less than an hour's drive from the capital of Central Java. During the Dutch colonial days, Ambarawa was a military zone and the railway station was used to transport troops to Semarang through Kedungjati. It is at 474m above sea level, giving you unpolluted fresh air to breathe.

The Ambarawa Railway Museum is well-maintained. It is a medium-sized building. The railway route is offered to visitors. You can enjoy the beautiful panorama during the route. All in all, this is a truly exciting treasure to visit. (Source:Dit. PSMP, 2006)

Questions:

1. What is the text mainly about?
2. Where is it located?
3. How did the Dutch use the Ambarawa railway station?
4. Why can we breathe fresh air there?
5. Why is it a must for us to visit this place?

Activity 2



It's time for group work.

Now it's your turn to give an oral description. Work with your partner to describe The Hawaiian Islands orally. Use the information in the following text.

THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS



Pic. 4.4

(<http://zon-zee-strand.hyves.it>)

The Hawaiian Islands are located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, far away from any other land. There are eight islands of different sizes, and while they differ from each other in some ways, they share many features.

They all have a tropical climate, with temperatures of about 78^oC (25.6^oC) in the winter and 85^oC (29.4^oC) in the summer.

Rain falls often, but not for long. The islands also share a natural beauty, with mountains and waterfalls, rainforests, and long beaches. Their waters are filled with colourful fish, dolphins, and giant sea turtles (Source:Dit. PSMP, 2006)

Activity 3



Now you can work individually to describe your hometown or your favourite place. Use the following questions as guidelines to prepare your description.

- Where do you come from/Where do you live?
- Where do you usually go on holidays?
- Where is your hometown/your favourite place located?
- How big is your hometown/the place?
- What is the weather like there?
- What's interesting about your hometown?
- What is it famous for?

Production

Activity 1



Now that you're ready to talk about your hometown or your favourite place, you're invited to come forward and tell the class about it. Read an example below.

A description of our school

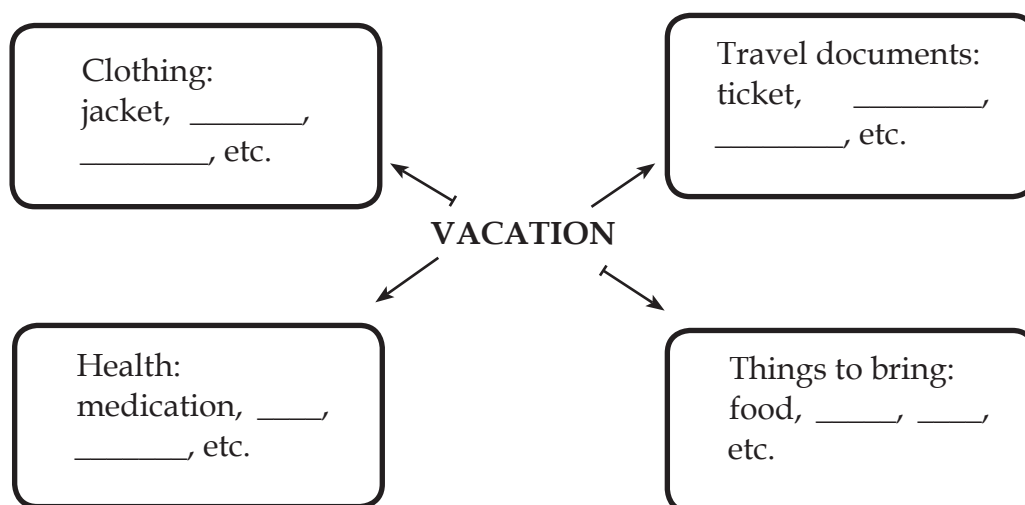
Our school is in the north of the city near the airport and factories. It is very big. There are 40 rooms and 700 students in the school. We have got a football field, three laboratories and a computer room. Our classroom is near the computer room.

Activity 2



Before you go travelling, do you take some time for the preparation? What do you have to prepare? What things do you have to take with you? How many clothes do you need?

Fill in the word map with the suitable words. Then, tell in front of the class what you have to prepare before traveling.



Section Two:

Written Descriptive

Presentation

Activity 1



Read these amazing facts about Iceland. Then guess the answers to the questions. Check the answers.

MYSTERIOUS ISLAND

Iceland is a very unique island – in fact, it's like nowhere else on earth. The interior of this island contains incredible contrasts. It has tundras, huge glaciers, volcanoes, and waterfalls.



Pic. 4.5

(<http://www.desktopscenes.com>)

Fact 1:

Swimsuit maker Speedo sells a very large number of bathing suits in Iceland. Is it warm here all year?

Fact 2:

The island's climate is cool, but most people don't pay money for heat. Energy is very cheap and it doesn't cause pollution.

What kind of energy do Icelanders use?

Fact 3:

Icelanders eat fresh fruit and vegetables all year, but they rarely buy them from other countries. Where do they get them?

Fact 4:

Icelanders like to play golf all night during the summer. How do they see the ball?

ANSWERS

1. No. Winters are cold in Iceland, but the people of Iceland swim all year in heated swimming pools.
2. They use geothermal heat from under the ground. Icelanders use water from volcanoes, hot springs, and geysers. Pipes carry the heated water throughout the country. The water heats buildings.
3. They get them from greenhouses. Icelanders use geothermal energy to grow fruit and vegetables in greenhouses, even in the winter. This means they don't need to import products.
4. Iceland is very close to the Arctic Circle. In the summer the sun doesn't go down, so people can play sports all night.

Notes on vocabulary:

| | |
|------------|--|
| geyser | : a hot spring that shoots water into the air. |
| glacier | : a large body of ice that moves slowly over land. |
| greenhouse | : a glass building used for growing plants. |
| produce | : foods such as fruit and vegetables. |
| tundra | : a large, flat area of frozen land without trees. |

Cultural Notes

Subtropical countries have four seasons a year: spring, summer, fall (autumn), and winter. In the North Hemisphere, spring is between March-May, summer between June-August, fall between September-November, and winter between December-February. In the South Hemisphere, spring is between September-November, summer between December-February, fall between March-May, and winter between June-August.

For each season, find in the Internet some information about:

- what people usually do.
- what kinds of clothes people usually wear.
- how the weather is.

Activity 2



Read the following text about Singapore.



Pic. 4.6 (<http://podasia.net>)

shops and restaurants. There are many good shopping centers. Most of the goods are duty free. Singapore's restaurants sell Chinese, Indian, Malay and European food, and the prices are quite reasonable.

(Source:Dit. PSMP, 2006)

Singapore is an island city of about 4 million people. It's a beautiful city with lots of parks and open spaces. It's also a clean city.

Most of the people live in high-rise flats in different parts of the island. The business district is very modern, with lots of tall new office buildings. Singapore also has some nice older sections. In Chinatown there are rows of old shop houses. The government buildings in Singapore are very beautiful and date from the colonial days.

Singapore is famous for its

Comprehension questions:

1. What is Singapore like? Is it beautiful?
2. How big is the population of Singapore?
3. Where do most people live?
4. Is the business district an old place?
5. What can we find in Chinatown?
6. What is Singapore most famous for?

Activity 3



How is the text about Singapore organized?

When you describe a place, a person, or a thing, you begin with **identification**.

- Singapore is an island city of about 4 million people.
- Megawati Sukarnoputri is the first female president of Indonesia.
- Brazil is the largest country in South America.

The rest of the passage gives you more details of the **physical description**. In the text about Singapore, the details are the kinds of building.

- People live in high-rise flats.
- The business district is modern, with tall new office buildings.

The passage also gives us the **specific characteristics** of Singapore. Guess what? The shopping centres and the restaurants!

- Most of the goods are duty free.
- The prices in the restaurants are reasonable.

Practice

Activity 1



Now read the following text. Answer the questions that follow.

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco is my favourite city in the United States. It is beautiful, clean, not too big, and it has something for everybody. I love the streets and buildings in San Francisco. The streets wind up and down the hills, with beautiful old brick and wooden houses on either side.



Pic. 4.7

(<http://upload.wikimedia.org>)

One of my favourite things to do in San Francisco is to ride the cable car. It takes you to most parts of the city. It's not a very comfortable ride, but it's exciting and the views you get from the car are wonderful.

And I like the weather in San Francisco. It never gets too cold or too hot. The summers are pleasant. The fresh breezes blow off the ocean and the sky is always blue. It rains quite a lot in the winter, but it never gets very cold.

Another thing I enjoy about the city is the restaurants. The seafood restaurants, with crabs and lobster, are my favourites. You can also get great Chinese, Japanese, American and European food in San Francisco.

Comprehension questions:

1. What is interesting about streets in San Francisco?
2. Does the cable car only go to certain areas of the city?
3. Can you see the view of San Francisco from the cable car?
4. What's the weather like there?
5. Does it rain a lot in the summers?
6. How are the restaurants in San Francisco?
7. How does the writer begin the text?
8. What does the writer include in the rest of the text?

Activity 2



Read the text about San Francisco again. Try to identify the organization of the text as we have seen in the text about Singapore.

Identification:

Description:

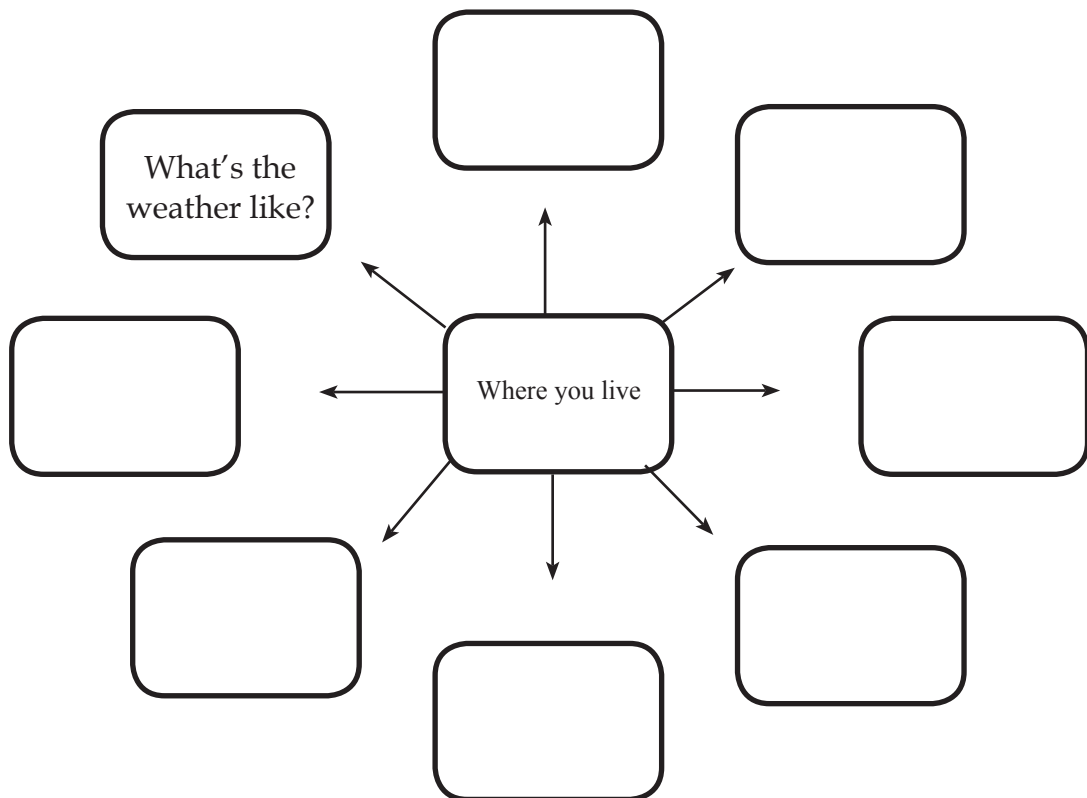
Activity 3



Are you ready to write about the place where you live? Let's follow these steps to help you write your paragraph.

Part 1

Write one question in the web on your paper, like the following example. Then pass it to the student on your right. He/she will write another question in another circle. When you get a paper from your left, read it and add one new question. Pass the paper until all the circles are filled with questions.



Part 2

Find your original paper. Read the questions. Choose four questions you want to answer and cross out three that you don't want to answer. Now you have 5 questions, including the one you wrote.

Part 3

Number the questions in the order you want to answer them.

| |
|----------|
| 1. _____ |
| 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ |
| 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ |

Part 4

Write your paragraph based on your answers to the questions.

| |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

Production

Activity 1



The following text about the capital of Egypt is not written properly. Edit the text so that it makes sense. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Egypt's Capital

Cairo is the largest city in Egypt. Here you can always roll back the centuries. Modern Cairo has tall buildings and broad streets equal to any in the capitals of Europe or Australia. From the top floors of impressive blocks of flats you can gaze at magnificent views across the River Nile.

However, behind the modern buildings are narrow alleys where there is no sound of traffic. The only sounds that come to your ears are the calls of the stall-holders. Water sellers and herdsmen wander through the streets as their forefathers did thousands of



Pic. 4.8

(<http://www.encasement.com>)

years ago Many of the poorer people still dress in the same way as their ancestors

Comprehension questions:

1. In which country is Cairo situated?
2. From where is the best place to absorb the views of the Nile?
3. How is the modern section of Cairo different from the ancient section?

Activity 2



Observe your own classroom. Write a text about it. Use these questions to help you.

1. What is the size of the classroom?
2. How are desks arranged?
3. What can you see in the front part?
4. What can you see on both sides?
5. What can you see on the walls?
6. How do you like your classroom?

Homework

Read the following text about Pisa Tower carefully. Then, find the meanings of the words printed in bold. Finally, answer the questions that follow. Use a dictionary when necessary.



Pic. 4.9

(<http://media.isnet.org>)

The Leaning Tower of Pisa

Thousands of people visit Pisa's famous tower each year and wonder just how much longer it can exist without falling.

Millions of dollars have been spent to stop the tower crashing to the ground. Soft, shifting soil has always been the tower's problem. Recently, it was discovered that the tower had moved two millimeters. This was a great setback because engineers had previously corrected about twenty millimeters of the lean by using an inventive underground cables idea to straighten the tower. Pisa would hate to lose its precious Campo dei Miracoli and the tourist dollars it generates.

Comprehension questions:

1. How much has been spent to save the tower?
2. What recently caused concern?

3. What causes the tower to move?
4. How are they trying to correct the fault?
5. What is the real name of the Leaning Tower of Pisa?
6. Why would Pisa hate to lose the tower?
7. Would you be sad if the tower fell? Why?

Summary

In this unit, you have learned

- how to respond to spoken descriptive;
- how to make spoken descriptive of your own;
- how to respond to written descriptive; and
- how to make written descriptive of your own.

You have also learned these.

- When you describe a place, a person, or a thing, you begin with identification.
- The rest of the text gives you more details of the physical description.
- The text also gives us the specific characteristics of the place, the person, or the thing you are describing.

Evaluation

I. Choose the correct words for the bicycle cloze test.

bicycles amusement cycles along action used easy bumpy

Bicycle is a word meaning 'two circles'. _____ were first _____ 150 years ago. However, they were only used for sport or _____. The first _____ were made mostly of wood and they were very heavy. They had no pedals. A rider drove them _____ by using his or her feet in a kind of running _____ on the roadway. This was not _____ because the roads were very _____, not smooth as they are today. Early names for the bicycle, 'hobby-horse', 'penny-farthing', and 'bone-shaker', speak for themselves.



Pic. 4.10 (<http://weightweenies.starbike.com>)

II. Read the text carefully. Answer these questions.

1. What does the word 'bicycle' mean?
2. In the past, what did people use bicycles for?
3. What were cycles made of previously?
4. What is the opposite of the word 'smooth' used in this text?
5. What were the early names of the bicycle? Explain each of them.

Reflection

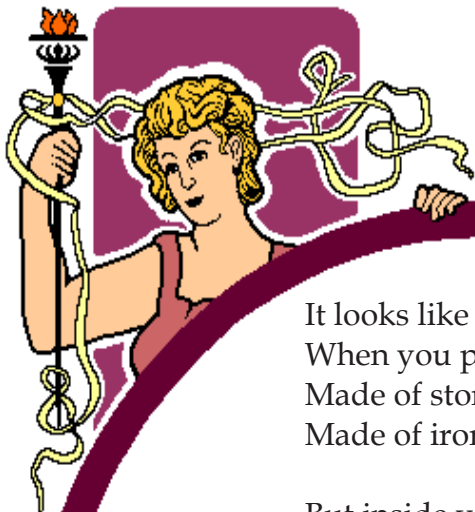
1. I think I know how to describe a place, a person, or a thing. When describing a place, a person, or a thing, I need to include _____.
2. The advantages of knowing how to describe a place, a person, or a thing for my study are _____.

Vocabulary List

| Words | Parts of Speech | Phonetic Transcription | Indonesian Equivalent |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| alley | n | ['æli] | gang |
| amazing | adj. | [ə'meɪzɪŋ] | menakjubkan |
| brick | n | [brɪk] | batu bata |
| climate | n | ['klaɪmət] | iklim |
| commit | v | [kə'mɪt] | melakukan |
| duty free | adj. | ['dju:tɪfri:] | bebas pajak |
| reasonable | adj. | ['ri:zənəbl] | pantas |
| sin | n | [sɪn] | dosa, kesalahan |
| speak for | v | [spi:kfɔ:] | menjelaskan |
| sunbathe | v | ['sʌnbet̪] | berjemur |
| troop | n | [tru:p] | tentara |
| vast | adj. | [vɑ:st] | luas |
| wander | v | ['wɒndə] | berkeliling |

Fun Page

Guess what place the following poem is describing!



It looks like any building
When you pass it on the street,
Made of stone and glass and marble,
Made of iron and concrete.

But inside you can ride
A camel or a train,
Visit Rome, Siam, or Nome,
Feel a hurricane,
Meet a king, learn to sing,
How to bake a pie,
Go to sea, plant a tree,
Find how airplanes fly,
Train a horse, and of course,
Have all the dogs you'd like,
See the moon, a sandy dune,
Or catch a whooping pike.
Everything that books can bring
You'll find inside those walls.
A world is there for you to share
When adventure calls.

You cannot tell its magic
By the way the building looks
But there's wonderment within it
The wonderment of books.

Barbara A. Huff