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| **Lesson Title:** Descriptive Composition – Describing a Person | | **Theme:** Writing | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-139 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcomes**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:  1. Demonstrate knowledge in the use of adjectives and their functions by using them to write a descriptive composition about a person.  2. Write a composition that will awaken readers’ imaginations. | | | |

**Overview**

When you describe a person, you usually describe the way someone looks. Then, the reader can get a mental picture of who you are talking about. It is important for the reader to understand not only what the person looks like but also how the person acts. You can show how the person relates to other people and how he or she makes them feel. These qualities are called **character** and **personality**.

Even if readers have never met the person before, they should feel that they know the person from your description. Therefore, you must choose interesting adjectives and descriptive words. When you describe someone well, the reader will get a clear picture of the person you are talking about.

To write a good **descriptive composition** of a person, you should arrange your sentences and details according to the person’s appearance, style of dressing, manner, personality and character.

The first paragraph in a composition is the introduction. Here you introduce the person you are going to describe. Give general information about the person, such as name, where he/she lives, nationality and occupation.

In the next paragraph, describe the physical appearance of the person – height (tall, short); body size (fat, thin); face shape (oval, round, wide); hair (black, brown); skin complexion (light, dark); eyes (small, large), etc.

In the following paragraph, describe the person’s style of dressing or talking and what this reflects about the person. For example, is the person modest, simple, chic or flamboyant? You can state what the person does or says or how he or she dresses that reflect these characteristics.

Next, go on to describe the person’s character traits and personality: Is the person clever, creative or dull? Is he or she generous, kind or selfish? Is he or she calm or aggressive, arrogant or humble? You can give reasons and examples to support the adjectives you have used to describe him or her.

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

Use the outline below to plan a descriptive composition that describes your best friend. Fill in the outline with as many adjectives you can think of in the different categories.

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| Title  Introduction: name, where he/she lives, nationality, occupation  Physical appearance: adjectives that describe how they look  Style of dressing: adjectives that describe how they dress  Character traits and personality: adjectives that describe their personality  Conclusion |

**Activity 2**

Use the outline you created in Activity 1 to help you write a descriptive composition about your best friend. Remember to organise your writing into a clear introduction, body and conclusion.

After you have finished writing, check your composition to make sure that you included the following:

* an introduction that introduces the topic
* a body that describes the physical appearance, style of dessing and character traits and personality of your best friend
* a conclusion that sums up what you have written in the composition
* well-organised paragraphs
* interesting adjectives and descriptive words
* no spelling or grammar errors

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**Activity 1**

Example outline:

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| My Best Friend, Mariama  Introduction: Mariama, 12 years old, lives in Bo, attends Grace Secondary School  Physical appearance: tall, short black hair, big brown eyes, slender, graceful  Style of dressing: chic, colourful, modern  Character traits and personality: helpful, friendly, kind, funny, caring  Conclusion |

**Activity 2**

Example composition:

My Best Friend, Mariama

My best friend, Mariama, is 12 years old, just like me. She lives in Bo with her mother, father and two sisters. We attend Grace Secondary School together and have known each other for a long time.

Mariama is tall, slender and graceful. She looks like a dancer when she walks. She moves as gracefully as a gazelle. She has short black hair and big brown eyes. Her skin is the colour of coffee and as smooth as shea butter. I think she is very pretty.

Mariama always wears the latest modern fashion. She is chic and the dresses she wears are always so colourful and beautiful. Her mother knows how to sew, so she makes new, interesting styles for Mariama and her sisters. All of the girls admire her style. I am lucky because she lets me borrow her fashionable clothes for parties.

The most important thing about Mariama is her personality! She is always willing to help her friends when they need it. She is friendly and kind to new pupils and seems to care about everyone. She is funny too and is always making me laugh.

For all these reasons, Mariama is my best friend.