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| **Lesson Title:** Descriptive Composition – Describing a Place | | **Theme:** Writing | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-140 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcome**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to describe a place using adjectives in such a way that readers can see the place with their mind’s eye. | | | |

**Overview**

For BECE, you may be asked to write a **descriptive composition** about a place you have visited. It is important for you to know how to write this composition well so that you can score good marks. Also, you may want to describe a place to someone who has never visited that particular place before so that the person gets a clear mental picture of the place.

When describing a place, you talk about what you see, hear, smell and feel. If you describe what the place looks like, what it sounds like, what it smells like and how it feels to be there, the reader will get a clear picture of what you are talking about. To talk about the senses, you can use **adjectives**, such as ‘bright’, ‘loud’, ‘stinky’ and ‘cold’.

In writing a description of a place there are different things to consider:

* What kind of a place are you describing? Is it a beach, a town, a village, a house, a museum or a library?
* Where is the place found? Is it in the centre of town, rural, in a crowded area or in a residential area?
* What is there to see and do? Does it have a nice view, lots of shops, lots of people from different cultures or traditions or a lot of recreational facilities?
* What is the place famous for? Do people from all over the world visit it? Does it have historical importance or is it famous for its food?

Always start the composition with an introductory paragraph. State the name of the place you are describing, its location, what the place is used for and any other general information you want to give. Next, give a vivid description of what you see, hear and smell. You can also describe how it feels to be in that particular place; why you like or dislike it. Remember to always separate your ideas into different paragraphs.

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

Use the following outline to help you plan a descriptive composition of a place. Describe your favourite place to visit.

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| Title  Introduction: the name of the place you’re describing, location, what it’s used for, general information  Description using the senses:  what is there to see and do, what is the place famous for?  See  Hear  Smell  Taste  Conclusion - how it makes you feel, why you like or dislike it. |

**Activity 2**

Use the outline you created in Activity 1 to help you write a descriptive composition about your favourite place to visit. 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 place using the senses
* 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 Favourite Place  Introduction: Number 2 Beach next to Tokeh beach on the Western Area Peninsula. It is a popular tourist attraction for Sierra Leoneans and foreigners.  Description using the senses:  what is there to see and do, what is the place famous for? – forest walks; fishing trips; boat rides; relax  See – mountains and mangrove forest and beautiful beach; tropical birds; flying fish leaping out of the water, traditional dance performers  Hear – the calls of birds, the waves crashing, people laughing and talking as they relax  Smell – salty ocean air; ripe fruit  Taste – refreshing coconut and bananas  Conclusion How it makes you feel, why you like or dislike it – joyful and relaxed; happy to spend time with family |

**Activity 2**

Example composition:

My Favourite Place

My favourite place in the world is Number 2 Beach. It is located on the Western Area Peninsula right next to Tokeh beach. It is a popular tourist attraction for both foreigners and Sierra Leoneans.

There are so many things to do at Number 2. I like to go for a forest walk, or on a fishing trip. There are also boat rides out to nearby islands. However, my favourite thing to do is just relax and watch the ocean and jump over the waves.

When I arrive at Number 2, the first thing I notice is the lush mountains and mangrove forest next to the beautiful beach. Tropical birds fly above, singing. In the water, flying fish leap out of the ocean.

My family and I always make sure to get some refreshing coconut and sweet bananas. We eat it while taking in the smell of the salty ocean air and ripe fruit. It is wonderful to be around so many laughing and talking families as they relax on the beach.

Number 2 always makes me feel joyful and relaxed. It is a nice treat to be able to spend time with my family in such a beautiful place. I would recommend that everyone visit it.