

Inspiration for stories: Have this by your side when you are story planning to improve your levels of descriptive detail.

Verbs/ Action Words

Smashed, crashed, splattered, shattered, scattered, splashed, raced, tilted, flickered, flashed, tapped, slid, ran, leapt, jumped, darted, raced, paced, stepped, travelled, shifted, crawled, crept, wove, dashed, pounced OR edged closer, stepped nearer, moved worriedly, walked softly, crept towards

Looking

Peered, looked, glanced, studied, examined, picked up, studied, inspected, saw, imagined

Facial Expressions/ Reactions

Blinked, stared, gawped, stood amazed, stopped dead, mouth fell open OR smiled, grinned, laughed, tried not to laugh OR blushed, went pink, stammered, stepped back, hands shaking, shuddering, shivering, heart beat faster, pulse raced, heart beat in her ears, stomach tied tight

Adjectives SIZE

Small, tiny, diminutive, neat, dainty OPPOSITE large, huge, gigantic, vast, limitless, endless

Weather

Snowy, brilliant, gleaming, shining, sparkling OPPOSITE dark, dull, cloudy, grim, bleak OR wet, glistening, gleaming, shining, misty, foggy, blurred, stormy, dark, bruised clouds, rain lashed down, sheets of rain, golden sunlight OR dusty, bare, dry earth, barren (nothing will grow), featureless

Appearance

Upright, straight, stiff OPPOSITE bent, wobbly, shaky, flowing OR weak-looking, feeble, delicate, slim OPPOSITE strong, muscular, thick-set, heavy, powerful OR striped, patterned, floral, flower-pattern, dark, light, shadowy, disheveled

Feelings

Comfortable, soft, gentle, inviting, welcoming OPPOSITE harsh, hard, unkind, brutal, violent, desperate, vicious, cruel, uncaring, heartless

Personality

Fussy, precise, careful, choosy OR messy

Texture

Smooth, glassy, glossy OPPOSITE abrasive, rough, like sandpaper, like bark OR bumpy, rippled, curved OR metallic, wooden, soft as silk (or petals), waxy, like cobweb, like lace, grassy

Sounds

Shrill, screeching, sharp, fierce, shrieking, high-pitched, piercing, whistling OR low, soft, melodious (musical), mellow, murmuring, whispering, muted (quiet) OR booming, echoing, thrilling, tingling OR crashed, banged, crackled, crunched, creaked, battered, hammered, pounded, beat, thudded, thumped, boomed

Smells

Musty, pungent (strong smelling), sour, stale OR sweet, spicy, warm, fresh, delicate, perfumed, suffocating

Tastes

Bitter, sweet, rich, dark, buttery, sour, dry, sharp, delicate, delicious OR vile, foul

Colours

Peach, coral, pink, fuchsia, ruby, magenta, crimson, blood-red, red, burgundy, maroon, purple, violet, indigo, navy, deep blue, cobalt, cornflower, turquoise, teal, bottle green, verdant (like grass), emerald, lime, yellow, gold, silver, platinum (brightest silver), blonde, honey-blonde, strawberry blonde, copper, russet (dark red brown), auburn (very dark red hair), brown, tan, mahogany, ebony (darkest brown, almost black), steel, lead-coloured.

Adverbs SPEED

Slowly, sluggishly OPPOSITE briskly, quickly, abruptly, suddenly

MANNER

Clumsily, violently, forcefully, vigorously, rudely, furiously OPPOSITE softly, gently, delicately, meekly, humbly OR eagerly, excitedly.