

Vocabulary

Booster 1: Descriptive and persuasive words

Key learning

Writers use adjectives and adverbs to make their writing more descriptive. Adjectives and adverbs can also help to make writing more persuasive.

An adjective is a describing word which usually describes a noun. For example:

tall, incredible, unpleasant

An adverb describes a verb. For example:

Manika walked up the hill **slowly**.

The adverb 'slowly' describes how Manika walked up the hill. 'Walked' is the verb in this sentence.

Adverbs can also describe:

- place, for example: it happened **there**
- frequency, for example: it **usually** happens
- time, for example: it happened **yesterday**.

Worked example:

1. Underline the **descriptive** words in this sentence:

Adam decided very quickly that running barefoot was not his favourite exercise.

2. Underline the **persuasive** words in this sentence:

You must agree that it is very important to save the rhinos. Please help before it is too late.

Answers:

1. Adam decided very quickly that running barefoot was not his favourite exercise.

'Very' and 'quickly' are adverbs that describe the decision Adam made. The adjective 'barefoot' describes the style of running and the adjective 'favourite' describes the exercise.

2. You must agree that it is very important to save the rhinos. Please help before it is too late.

'You' and 'please help' directly address the reader and 'must agree' tells them to have the same point of view as the writer. The phrases 'very important' and 'before it is too late' both show the urgency of the situation.

Your turn:

Underline the descriptive words in the following sentences.

1. Extreme sports are great fun but can be dangerous.
2. In order to be very effective in your work, you need to make sure you are getting a large quantity of high-quality sleep.
3. You will receive the very best service from the most talked-about firm in the area.