

Lesson 4 Use Describing Words

A **detail** is a small piece of information that helps readers “see” what you are writing about. To show details, writers use describing words that tell how something looks, sounds, smells, feels, or tastes.

Brian went to the zoo last week. Here’s what he wrote.

The giraffe had a neck.

Notice that there are no words describing the giraffe’s neck.

Brian added a describing word to help the reader “see” what he was writing about.

The giraffe had a ^{long} neck.

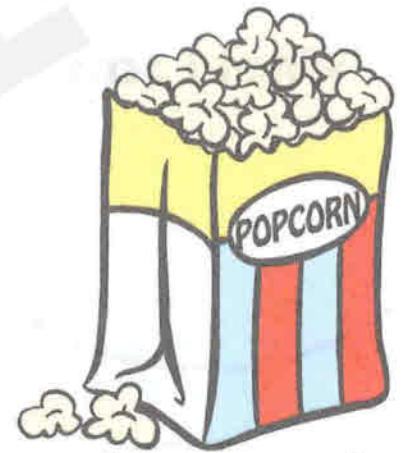
Brian also wrote this sentence.

We ate popcorn and peanuts.

Brian then added a detail to describe the peanuts.

We ate popcorn and ^{salty} peanuts.

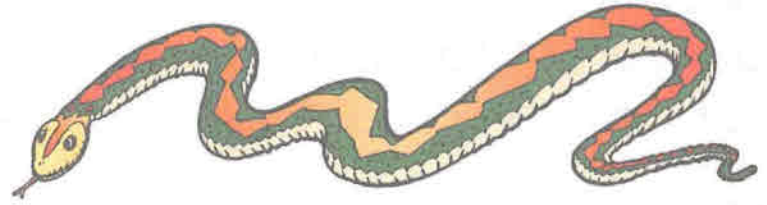
There was butter on Brian’s popcorn. Rewrite Brian’s sentence and add another word so the reader knows what the popcorn tasted like. Use this symbol (^) to add your describing word.



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Here is another sentence Brian wrote.
What detail might make it better?

I didn't like the snake's skin.



How do you think the snake's skin felt? Add a describing word to Brian's sentence to tell how it felt.

Think about a place you have visited. Maybe it was a zoo or a fair. Or, maybe you watched a parade or went to a sporting event. Write describing words about it here.



Did a friend or adult go with you? Ask someone who went with you to think of another describing word to add to your web.

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Now, write some sentences about the place you visited. Answer each question. Include at least one describing word in each sentence.

What did you see? Was it very colorful, pretty, or ugly?

What did you hear? Were there many kinds of sounds, or just a few?

What did you touch? Was it hard, bumpy, or sticky?

What did you smell? Were there many smells, or just one?

Did you have something to eat? How did it taste?

Have a friend or adult read your sentences. Does each sentence begin with a capital letter and end with an end mark?