

DESCRIPTIVE ARTICLES: DESCRIBING A PERSON

The editor of your school magazine has requested articles for a special issue about friendship. You have been invited to write a short article about a close friend of yours. Write your article describing the person's appearance, personality and hobbies/interests.

A Close Friend *by Jim White*

Jacques has been my close friend for two years. I first met him on a school exchange trip to Calais, France. I asked him the way to the library and we started talking. We've been friends ever since.

Jacques is quite good-looking. He's tall and slim, with olive skin and curly dark hair. Like many French people, he has a great sense of style, so he always looks well-dressed even in casual clothes.

Jacques is very outgoing. He is always friendly and loves to have fun. He's got a fantastic sense of humour and he always makes me laugh. However, he can be a bit immature at times. For example, when he doesn't get what he wants, he acts childishly and stamps his feet.

Jacques is very keen on water sports. He likes sailing and he spends a lot of time on his boat. He enjoys scuba diving, too, and loves exploring life under the sea.

All in all, I'm glad to have Jacques as my friend. It's a pleasure to be with him and I really enjoy his company. I'm sure we'll always be close friends.

Source: Successful writing Intermediate, page 43.

DESCRIPTIVE ARTICLES: DESCRIBING A PLACE

You have seen an advertisement in an international travel magazine inviting readers to send in articles about the place where they live. Write your article describing that place, including things to see and do as well as information about the weather and what the town is famous for.

The place where I live

I live in Porto, which is a city on the coast in the north of Portugal. It has a population of 300,000 people and it's the second biggest city in Portugal.

It's a beautiful city, and it's great for walking around. There are lots of narrow streets, and it's full of churches, museums, and markets. There's an area called Foz where there are a lot of outdoor bars and restaurants - people go there at the weekend to sit in the sun, drink coffee, and watch the Atlantic.

The weather is very different from the south of Portugal. The winter can be very wet, and it sometimes rains for days. The summer is wonderful - it's sunny but not usually too hot, and it's great for going to the mountains or the beach.

Porto is famous for port wine, which is only produced here (but I don't like it much!). The biggest tourist attraction in Porto is probably the river - there are some beautiful bridges, including one designed by Eiffel, and lots of tourists go on boat trips. There's a festival in June called São Joao, with a lot of fireworks and people in the streets, and everybody spends most of the evening hitting each other with plastic hammers!

But I think the best things about Porto are the people and the atmosphere. It's quite small and it's very safe and friendly. It's a working city and it has a real sense of history, and that's the main reason why I like living here so much.

Source: New English File - Preintermediate, page 49.

DESCRIPTIVE ARTICLES: DESCRIBING A PLACE

You have seen an advertisement in an international travel magazine inviting readers to send in articles about a town they have visited. Write your article describing a town, including things to see and do as well as information about the town's shops and nightlife.

An Ideal Seaside Resort *by Sally Fulton*

Brighton is a large town on the south-east coast of England. Located only an hour from London, it is a **charming** seaside resort and the perfect destination for a **peaceful** weekend.

Brighton has several tourist attractions which are worth visiting. Among these is the Royal Pavilion, a **beautiful** Indian-style palace which was built in the early nineteenth century. Brighton's most **famous** attraction is the lively Palace Pier, with its fantastic funfair and amusement arcades. Both young and old can have fun while admiring the spectacular view of Brighton's seafront.

There are plenty of places to go shopping in Brighton. The town centre has a large **modern** shopping centre. There are also **narrow** lanes full of lovely antique shops that are always bustling with tourists.

The nightlife in Brighton is **exciting**. There are a lot of music and dance clubs which are extremely **popular** with younger people. The area is also well-known for its fashionable restaurants, which offer a variety of **international** cuisines.

Brighton is a town that has something to offer everyone. Whether you want to spend your time shopping and seeing the sights, or simply relaxing and enjoying the fresh sea air, Brighton is the ideal choice for a few days away from the city.

Source: Successful writing Intermediate, page 49.

DESCRIPTIVE ARTICLES: DESCRIBING A BUILDING

The editor of your school magazine has requested articles for a special issue about buildings. You have been invited to write a short article about the most beautiful building in your town. Write your article describing the building.

The Duomo

The most beautiful building in my town is the cathedral (the Duomo). It is in the centre of Milan, in the Piazza del Duomo. Nobody knows who it was designed by, but people think it was an architect from northern Europe. Construction began in 1386, but the building wasn't completed for another 500 years.

It is one of the largest cathedrals in the world and it has 135 spires and 3,400 statues. On top of the Duomo there is a gold statue of the Madonna which watches over the city. The statue is called the "Madonnina", or the little Madonna, although it is four metres tall.

Inside the Duomo it is quite dark. There are beautiful big windows, and a lot of interesting statues and monuments. In the chapel of St Fina there are some wonderful frescoes by Ghirlandaio.

One of the best things you can do in Milan is to go up to the roof of the Duomo. The view is fantastic - on a clear day you can see the Italian Alps. You can get the lift, or if you are feeling energetic, you can walk up the 250 steps. It is free to go in, but you must dress appropriately.

Source: New English File - Preintermediate, page 49.



DESCRIPTIVE ARTICLES: DESCRIBING AN OBJECT

You saw this announcement in an international magazine for teen-agers, and you have decided to write an article.

My most treasured possession...

Write an article with this title, about something of yours that you particularly value. It could be any object, big or small.

You should briefly describe the object, and explain why it is so important to you.

My Most Treasured Possession ...

by Rebecca Black

Everyone has a certain possession that they would not part with for anything. It may be an object that is worth a lot of money, or it may have sentimental value only. My own most treasured possession is my personal stereo.

This wonderful piece of technology is made of shiny black plastic and is small enough to fit in my coat pocket. It comes equipped with little headphones which are light and comfortable to wear.

One reason I like my personal stereo so much is because it enables me to sit in my room and listen to music while I am doing my homework for college, or when I'm simply relaxing. The sound doesn't disturb my family — in fact, they don't even know when I've got it on!

Another advantage that my personal stereo has is that I can take it everywhere with me. It is my constant companion: on the bus, when out for walks or shopping, and even on the way to and from college. As long as I have music to listen to, I never feel bored or lonely.

My personal stereo is the perfect possession. It provides entertainment, relaxation and companionship, and I would certainly feel lost without it.

Source: Successful writing Intermediate, page 138.