

A Paragraph to Describe Objects

A paragraph to describe objects consists of 5 parts as follows:

1. Function/ Use
2. Components/ Parts
3. Characteristics
 - material
 - shape/ figure
 - dimensions
 - property
 - colour
4. Position
5. Connection between parts

Language Focus:

Function/Use

v.to be + used to + V₁
v.to be + used for + V_{ing}

A drum is used for making music.
A drum is used to make music.

Components/Parts

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|--|--|
| 1.1 | A hammer | { consists of is made up of is composed of } | a handle and a head. |
| 1.2 | A hammer | includes | a handle and a head. |
| 1.3 | A hammer has two | { parts: sections: components: } | a handle and a head. one is a handle, the other is a head. one is a handle, the other is a head. |

Characteristics

● Material

A chair is made of wood.

Bread is made from wheat.

This kind of car is made by a big company in Japan.

● **Shape/Figure**

A is shaped like + n.

A coin is shaped like a circle.

A is + Adj. + in shape.

A coin is circular in shape.

A is + Adj.

A coin is circular.

| Noun | Adjective |
|-------------|------------------|
| Square | square |
| rectangle | rectangular |
| triangle | triangular |
| ellipse | elliptical |
| semicircle | semicircular |
| circle | circular |
| cube | cubic |
| pyramid | pyramidal |
| cone | conical |
| hemisphere | hemispherical |
| cylinder | cylindrical |

● **Dimensions**

length,width, height, depth, thickness etc.

A is 250 metres + Adj.

This building is 250 metres high.

A has a + n. of 250 metres

This building has a height of 250 metres.

The + n. of A is 250 metres.

The height of this building is 250 metres.

A is 250 metres in + n.

This building is 250 metres in height.

| Adjective | Noun |
|------------------|-------------|
| long | length |
| high | height |
| wide | width |
| broad | breadth |
| deep | depth |

● **Property**

Property is a special quality that belongs to the object.

The interior of a ping-pong ball is hollow.

This book is thick.

The glass bottle is fragile.

The edge of a table is straight.

The sides of a car are flat.

The middle of a bottle is curved.

● **Colour**

black, white, green, etc.

Position

If the objects to be described are complicated, consisting of many parts, or appearing in a set, positions must be given.

Example: inside, outside, at the top, on the left/ right, in the middle, to the right/ left (of), at the bottom, above, over, between, below, beside, at the end of, behind, in front of, near, by, etc.

The engine is *inside* the scooter with a headlight *at the top*. The spare wheel is *at the back*. There is a petrol cap *under the seat*.

A car has four headlights *at the front*. *At the top of* the engine is the radiator and *at the top* is an oil cap.

Connection between Parts

Connection is a relationship between two things or more. If the object has more than one part, we have to describe them part by part with a connection between them.

Verbs that signal the connection are: attach, detach, join, connect, support, fix, fit, lead, link, etc.

The head of a hammer *is fixed to* the handle.

The rubber tube *is fitted over* the glass tube.

The glass tube *is fitted into* the rubber tube.

The wire *leads from* the switch *to* the bulb.

The wire *links* between the switch and the bulb.

The wheels of a car *are detached from* the body of a car.

The wheels of a car *are connected by* the axles.

Examples of a Paragraph to Describe Objects

A mixer is used for mixing food. The mixer is made of metal and plastic. It consists of 5 parts: a base, a stand, a motor housing, beaters, and a bowl. The base is rectangular in shape. It is 12 cm wide and 15 cm long. The stand which is supported by the base is 30 cm in height. The motor housing which contains a motor is joined to the stand. The steel beaters are very hard and tough. They are fitted in the gearbox. The glass bowl is hard and brittle. The edge of the bowl is circular. The glass bowl is detached from the base.

A kettle is a metal container which is used for boiling water. It consists of 4 main parts: a vessel, a lid, a spout, and a handle. The vessel is 7 inches high. It is hollow and spherical in shape. The base is flat and circular. It has a diameter of 6 inches. On the top of the vessel, there is a convex lid with a plastic knob in the middle. The lid is 5 inches in diameter. Above the lid is a curved handle which is covered with plastic at the middle part. At the side of the vessel is a conical spout for pouring water out of the vessel.

A vacuum bottle is a container which is used to keep liquids either hot or cold. It is composed of a metal container, a glass bottle, a plastic cap, a cork, and a shock absorber. This vacuum bottle is 25 inches in height. The outer part of the bottle consists of a metal container and a plastic cap. The container is cylindrical in shape. Its base is flat and circular. It has a diameter of 10 inches. The cap is at the top of the container. Inside the container, there is a cylindrical glass bottle with a tapering neck and a cork at the top. The glass bottle is supported by a spiral shock absorber which is fixed to the base of the container. It has 2 walls: the inner and the outer. Between these walls, there is a vacuum to keep the liquid at a constant temperature.

★ spiral (adj.) = cycling around a single point