

Descriptive Words for use in Writing

Smell:

Acrid	Acid	Biting
Clean	Crisp	Dirty
Earthy	Faint	Cheap
Mild	Fishy	Floral
Musky	Fresh	Light
Loamy	Dewy	Moldy
Moist	Musty	Nauseating
Perfumed	Pine	Pungent
Putrid	Rancid	Aromatic
Repulsive	Rotten	Sharp
Skunky	Sour	Spicy
Spoiled	Stale	Stinking
Strong	Sweaty	Sweet
Tart	Wispy	Woody
Bland	Stale	Bitter
Zesty	Fragrant	Airy

Sound:

Boisterous	Brittle	Calm
Croaky	Dull	Earsplitting
Faint	Gentle	Deafening
Harsh	Hoarse	High-pitched
Husky	Loud	Harmonious
Melodic	Muffled	Low-pitched
Musical	Muted	Noiseless
Noisy	Gruff	Piercing
Pleasing	Quiet	Raspy
Resonant	Riotous	Rowdy
Squeaky	Screeching	Screaming
Shrill	Silent	Smooth
Soft	Strong	Sweet
Tacit	Tranquil	Thundering
Velvety	Whisper	Sizzle
Serene	Buzz	Hum
Hiss	Shriek	Snappy
Roar	Booming	Crunchy

Taste

Bland	Rotten	Fragrant
Stale	Juicy	Stinky
Goosey	Bitter	Lipsmacking
Delicious	Pungent	Zesty
Sweet	Spicy	Dry
Moist	Savoury	Rich
Tasty	Sugary	Greasy
Sour	Piping hot	Crunchy
Acrid	Aftertaste	Scrumptious
Biting	Briny	Appetizing
Caustic	Delectable	Divine
Flavourful	Fruity	Full-bodied
Gamy	Harsh	Heavenly
Hot	Luscious	Mellow
Palatable	Peppery	Mouthwatering
Rancid	Salty	Sharp
Succulent	Tang	Tart

Motion

Soaring	Breeze	Staggering
Blown	Paralyzed	Grab
Turbulence	Choppy	Swirling
Wriggle	Rapid	Constant
Slow	Quick	Random
Steady	Vibrate	Smooth
Continual	Chaotic	Rigid
Abrupt	Angular	Brisk
Circular	Deliberate	Diagonal
Distinct	Effortless	Fast
Familiar	Faint	Harmonious
Light	Melodic	Restless
Painful	Sharp	Soft
Spasmic	Springy	Tumultuous
Warm	Unsteady	Tremors

Touch

Fluffy	Chilled	Stifled
Gritty	Woolly	Crisp
Rough	Abrasive	Bumpy
Smooth	Blistery	Chapped
Slimy	Chunky	Bushy
Sticky	Blemished	Damp
Creepy	Dense	Dusty
Crisp	Dry	Wet
Hairy	Feathery	Fat
Firm	Fleecy	Furry
Fuzzy	Glossy	Hard
Hot	Cold	Hollow
Icy	Indented	Jagged
Prickly	Grainy	Fragile
Frigid	Encrusted	Moist
Mushy	Irregular	Itchy
Pulpy	Ragged	Ridged
Rigid	Rough	Rubbery
Sandy	Saturated	Serrated
Sheer	Silky	Slippery
Smooth	Soaked	Spongy
Steely	Stiff	Soiled
Soggy	Thick	Thin
Throbbing	Tough	Uncomfortable
Warm	Wavy	Waterlogged
Wet	Woven	Wiry
Withered	Wrinkled	Pliable

*See also – Feeling into our Bodies
handout

Visual/Other

Gigantic	Tiny	Small
Bulky	Enormous	Humungous
Glittery	Sparkling	Shimmering
Shiny	Glowing	Crooked
Hazy	Shadowy	Gloomy
Drab	Murky	Dull
Knotty	Vibrant	Attractive
Polished	Petite	Scarred
Rosy	Squat	Curvy
Stylish	Tall	Frizzy
Frumpy	Thick	Thin
Heavy	Lanky	Wiry
Angled	Dirty	Innocent
Sloppy	Evil	Musky
Bright	Fluffy	Tacky
Calming	Tranquil	Unique
Checkered	Clean	Cloudy
Organized	Patterned	Harrowing
Hard	Sharp	Rusty
Dangerous	Hazardous	Violent
Vicious	Joyful	Colourful
Angry	Calm	Arrogant
Cruel	Moody	Excited
Shy	Serious	Grumpy
Tiresome	Stupefied	Powerful
Bold	Glossy	Photographic
Elaborate	Impressive	Stunning
Creative	Complex	Dramatic

- These words may be particularly helpful in writing a Captured Moment or Character Sketch.
- Try not to let them overwhelm you – glance through them when you feel you are lacking a word, but don't feel pressured to use them.
- Don't use words you don't know or get too caught up in looking words up. That doesn't help the process and this isn't a vocabulary activity.

*See Feeling Vocabulary for words describing emotions and Qualities/Skills for personal attributes.