

NAPLAN Narrative Adjectives Palette

Paint Your Story with Vivid Words

 Year 7 Writing Excellence

Transform Your Narrative Writing

Master the art of descriptive writing with this comprehensive collection of narrative adjectives. Each carefully selected word will help you create more engaging, vivid, and sophisticated stories that will impress NAPLAN assessors and captivate your readers.



Vivid Descriptions

Paint detailed pictures
with powerful
descriptive adjectives



Emotional Depth

Express complex
emotions and create
character connections



NAPLAN Success

Elevate your writing to
achieve outstanding
results



Physical Appearance & Character Traits

Striking

Attracting attention;
impressive

Weathered

Worn by exposure to weather

Gaunt

Lean and haggard; thin

Radiant

Bright and glowing with health

Lanky

Tall, thin, and awkward

Stocky

Short and sturdy; solidly built

Elegant

Graceful and stylish

Rugged

Rough-featured; strongly built

Petite

Small and delicate

Robust

Strong and healthy

Willowy

Tall, slim, and graceful

Distinguished

Having a dignified appearance

Frail

Weak and delicate

Statuesque

Tall and impressive

Wiry

Lean and tough

Youthful

Having the appearance of youth



Personality & Character Traits

Charismatic

Compelling charm and appeal

Cunning

Clever in a sly way

Resilient

Able to recover quickly

Tenacious

Persistent and determined

Impetuous

Acting without thinking

Shrewd

Sharp and clever

Whimsical

Playfully unpredictable

Stoic

Enduring pain without emotion

Gregarious

Sociable and outgoing

Meticulous

Extremely careful and precise

Vivacious

Lively and animated

Cantankerous

Bad-tempered and quarrelsome

Astute

Clever and perceptive

Boisterous

Noisy and energetic

Enigmatic

Mysterious and puzzling

Benevolent

Kind and generous

Emotional States & Feelings

Euphoric

Intensely happy and excited

Melancholic

Feeling of thoughtful sadness

Apprehensive

Anxious about the future

Ecstatic

Overwhelmed with joy

Despondent

In low spirits; dejected

Jubilant

Showing great joy

Forlorn

Pitifully sad and lonely

Elated

Very happy and excited

Distraught

Deeply upset and agitated

Serene

Calm and peaceful

Perturbed

Feeling anxious or unsettled

Buoyant

Cheerful and optimistic

Wistful

Having a yearning sadness

Exuberant

Full of energy and excitement

Sullen

Bad-tempered and sulky

Tranquil

Free from disturbance

Setting & Atmosphere

Foreboding

Serene

Ominous

Implying future trouble

Calm and peaceful

Suggesting something bad

Idyllic

Extremely peaceful

Eerie

Strange and frightening

Pristine

In perfect condition

Desolate

Deserted and bleak

Enchanting

Delightfully charming

Sinister

Suggesting evil

Picturesque

Visually attractive

Austere

Severe and forbidding

Bucolic

Rural and peaceful

Sombre

Dark and gloomy

Majestic

Impressively grand

Oppressive

Harsh and overwhelming

Sublime

Inspiring awe through beauty



Weather & Environmental Conditions

Tempestuous

Very stormy and turbulent

Balmy

Pleasantly warm

Blustery

Windy and boisterous

Sultry

Hot and humid

Crisp

Fresh and invigorating

Muggy

Unpleasantly warm and humid

Bracing

Fresh and energising

Sweltering

Uncomfortably hot

Nippy

Quickly cold

Parched

Extremely dry

Invigorating

Making one feel strong

Stifling

Unpleasantly hot and airless

Damp

Slightly wet

Scorching

Very hot

Misty

Full of mist

Frigid

Very cold



Sensory Experiences

Luminous

Bright and shining

Melodious

Pleasant-sounding

Silky

Smooth and soft

Pungent

Having a sharp smell

Velvety

Soft like velvet

Cacophonous

Harsh, discordant sound

Gritty

Containing small particles

Aromatic

Having a pleasant smell

Lustrous

Having a gentle shine

Harmonious

Forming a pleasing sound

Coarse

Rough in texture

Fragrant

Having a sweet smell

Iridescent

Showing rainbow colours

Resounding

Loud and echoing

Supple

Flexible and soft

Acrid

Unpleasantly bitter taste



Action & Movement Descriptions

Agile

Sluggish

Graceful

Quick and nimble

Slow-moving

Moving with elegance

Clumsy

Awkward in movement

Swift

Moving very quickly

Lethargic

Lacking energy

Fluid

Smooth and flowing

Jerky

Sudden, uneven movement

Nimble

Quick and light

Languid

Slow and relaxed

Lithe

Flexible and supple

Ponderous

Slow and heavy

Deft

Skillful and quick

Stilted

Artificially formal

Spry

Active and lively

Stiff

Not moving easily



Time & Temporal Descriptions

Fleeting

Lasting for a short time

Eternal

Lasting forever

Momentary

Very brief

Enduring

Lasting for a long time

Transient

Lasting only briefly

Perpetual

Never ending

Ephemeral

Lasting for a very short time

Timeless

Not affected by time

Instantaneous

Happening immediately

Prolonged

Continuing for a long time

Sudden

Happening quickly

Gradual

Happening slowly

Immediate

Occurring at once

Delayed

Happening later than expected

Abrupt

Sudden and unexpected

Lingering

Slow to disappear



Advanced Academic Vocabulary

Profound

Very deep or intense

Superficial

Existing on the surface

Intricate

Very complicated

Rudimentary

Basic and undeveloped

Exemplary

Serving as a good example

Deplorable

Deserving strong condemnation

Pivotal

Of crucial importance

Trivial

Of little importance

Innovative

Introducing new ideas

Archaic

Very old-fashioned

Comprehensive

Complete and thorough

Fragmentary

Consisting of fragments

Eloquent

Fluent and persuasive

Inarticulate

Unable to speak clearly

Methodical

Done in an orderly way

Haphazard

Lacking organisation

How to Use Your Adjective Palette

💡 Writing Strategies

- ✓ Choose adjectives that match your story's mood and tone
- ✓ Use contrasting adjectives to create tension and interest
- ✓ Combine sensory adjectives to create vivid scenes
- ✓ Progress from simple to more sophisticated vocabulary

★ NAPLAN Success Tips

- ✓ Show, don't tell - use descriptive adjectives instead of stating facts
- ✓ Vary your adjective choices to demonstrate vocabulary range
- ✓ Use precise adjectives to create clear mental images
- ✓ Balance sophisticated vocabulary with clear communication

✍️ Example: Transforming Your Writing

Before:

"The old man walked down the street on a bad day."

After:

"The weathered gentleman shuffled down the cobblestone lane on a tempestuous afternoon, his gaunt frame bent against the blustery wind."

Adjectives used: weathered, cobblestone, tempestuous, gaunt, blustery

Ready to Paint Your Story?

Use these powerful adjectives to transform your narrative writing and achieve NAPLAN excellence!

🎨 Creative Expression 🏆 Academic Success 🗝️ Writing Excellence

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