The Super-Fantastic Writing Resource Guide

Contents

[Adjective Wheels 3](#_Toc32923410)

[5 Words to Use Instead of “Very” 5](#_Toc32923414)

[Show Don’t Tell 6](#_Toc32923414)

[Character Traits 8](#_Toc32923414)

[Personality Adjectives 10](#_Toc32923414)

[Body Language 14](#_Toc32923414)

[Describing Sounds 20](#_Toc32923414)

[Describing Smells 23](#_Toc32923414)

[Describing Tastes and Flavours 25](#_Toc32923414)

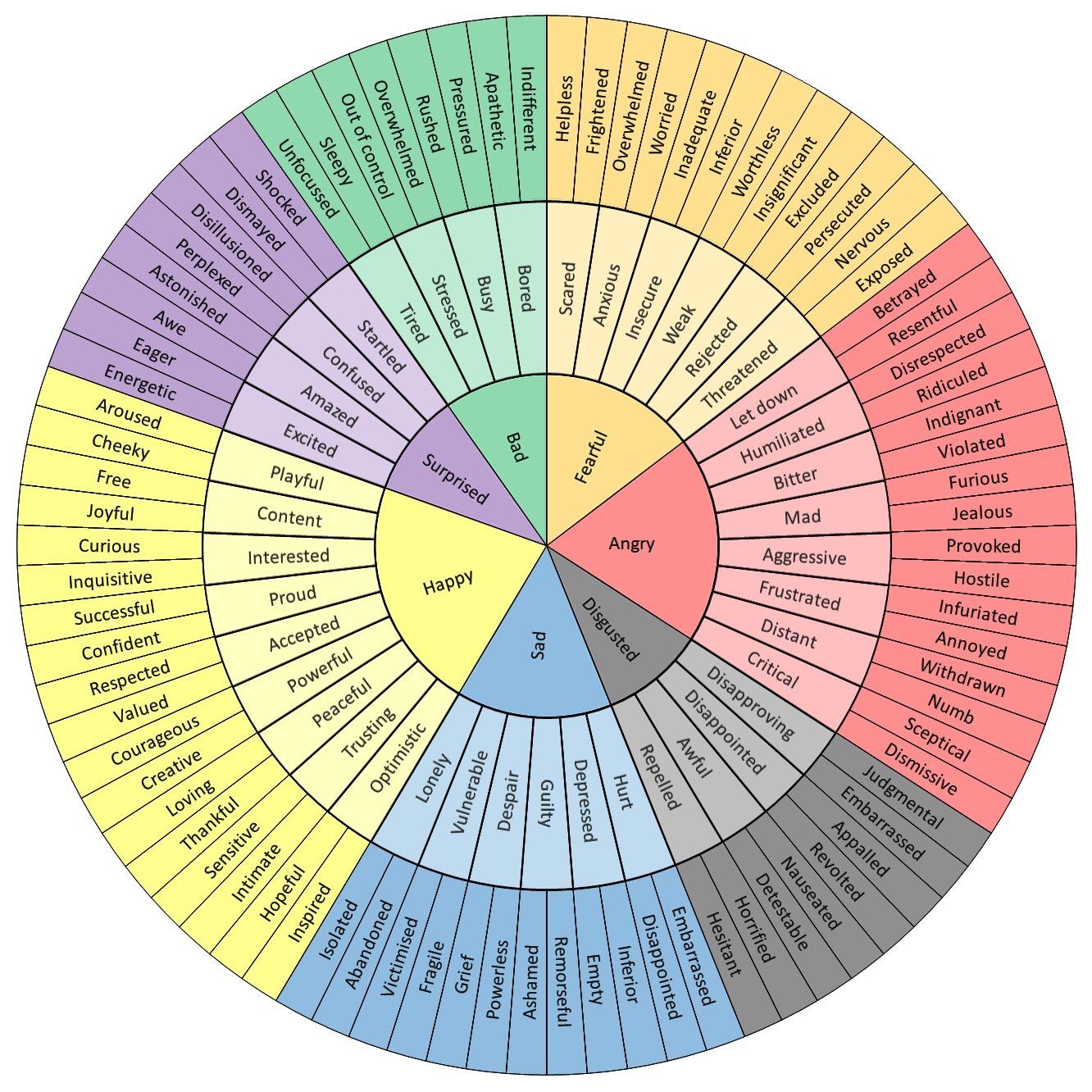
[Describing Touch 26](#_Toc32923414)

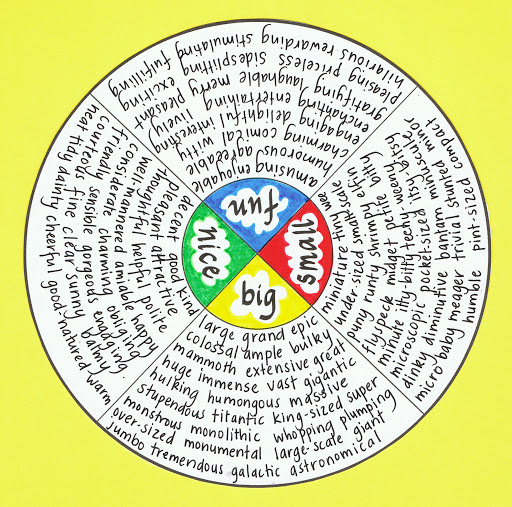
[Body Descriptions 27](#_Toc32923414)

[Sentence Starters 32](#_Toc32923414)

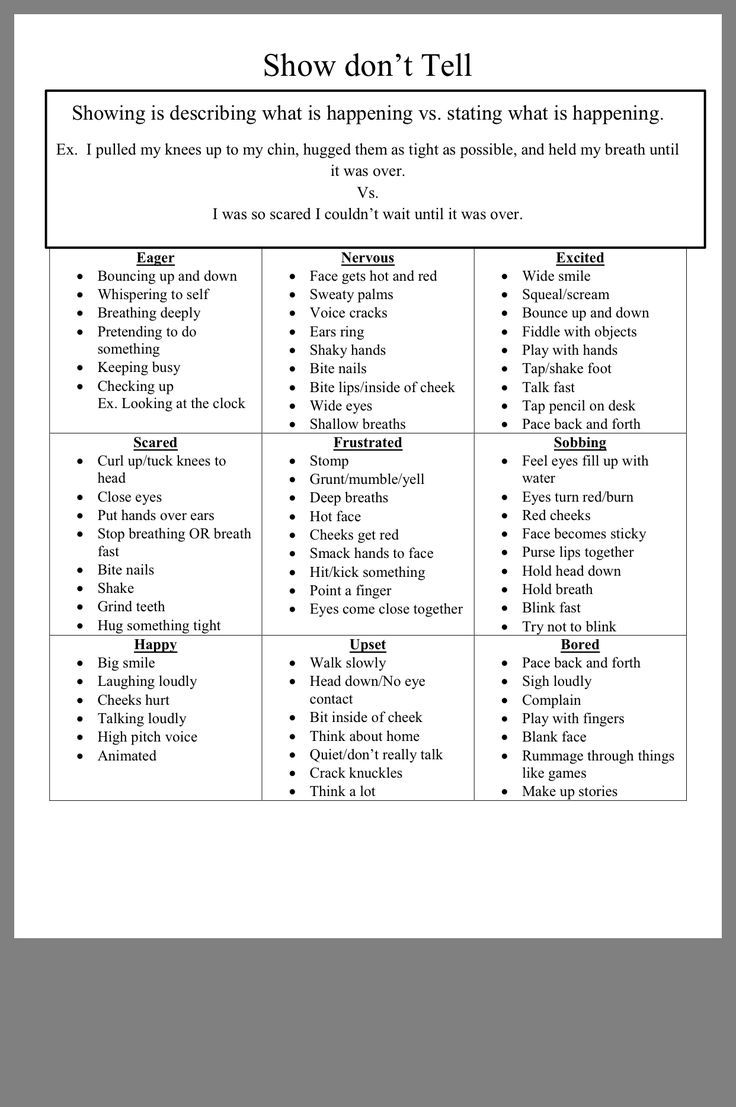
[Using Higher Level Vocabulary: Fiction Writing 33](#_Toc32923415)

[Writing Help: Transitions, Connectives, etc 37](#_Toc32923416)









**5 Simple Ways To Help Writers Show And Not Tell**

1. [**Choose a viewpoint character**](https://writerswrite.co.za/how-choosing-a-viewpoint-character-helps-you-show-and-not-tell): It is easier if you are experiencing the scene as one character. If you struggle to write in third person, you can try writing a scene in first person. Use it as practice. You can change the viewpoint later if needed. Often beginner writers use an omniscient narrator without being aware of how much it makes you tell.
2. [**Use the senses**](https://writerswrite.co.za/how-to-use-the-senses-to-show-and-not-tell): Write a list of what your character sees, [hears](https://writerswrite.co.za/106-ways-to-describe-sounds/), [smells](https://writerswrite.co.za/75-words-that-describe-smells/), [touches](https://writerswrite.co.za/209-words-to-describe-touch/) and [tastes](https://writerswrite.co.za/20-words-used-to-describe-specific-tastes-and-flavours/). Then write about it without using the words see, hear, smell, touch and **taste**. By using the senses you force your character to interact with their environment and in so doing, it becomes more of a showing scene.
3. [**Be specific**](https://writerswrite.co.za/how-being-specific-helps-you-show-and-not-tell)**:** The more specific you are with your descriptions and actions the easier it will become to show. specificity makes your writing stronger, your images clearer and forces your reader to engage mentally and emotionally.
4. [**Avoid these ‘telling’words**](https://writerswrite.co.za/how-to-avoid-telling-words)**:** Look out for these words: is, are, was, were, have, had. Look out for the words ‘was and were’, ‘have and had’. Most of the time they are making you tell. Certain verbs can also make you do this. Look at this post on [more telling words to avoid](https://writerswrite.co.za/show-dont-tell).
5. [**Dialogue**](https://writerswrite.co.za/how-to-use-dialogue-to-show-and-not-tell)**:** This is one of the simplest tools to use. The moment your characters start talking, showing becomes easier. Dialogue means you have an action scene. A scene where things happen. You have movement. You have body language, you have them interacting with their [setting](https://writerswrite.co.za/12-crucial-things-to-remember-about-setting-in-storytelling/). You have a scene that engages a reader.





**Positive Personality Adjectives**

adaptable  
adventurous  
affable  
affectionate  
agreeable  
ambitious  
amiable  
amicable  
amusing

brave  
bright  
broad-minded

calm  
careful  
charming  
communicative  
compassionate  
conscientious  
considerate  
convivial  
courageous  
courteous  
creative

decisive  
determined  
diligent  
diplomatic  
discreet  
dynamic

easygoing  
emotional  
energetic  
enthusiastic  
exuberant

fair-minded  
faithful  
fearless  
forceful  
frank  
friendly  
funny

generous  
gentle  
good  
gregarious

hard-working  
helpful  
honest  
humorous

imaginative  
impartial  
independent  
intellectual  
intelligent  
intuitive

inventive  
kind

loving  
loyal

modest

neat  
nice

optimistic

passionate  
patient  
persistent  
pioneering  
philosophical  
placid  
plucky  
polite  
powerful  
practical  
pro-active

quick-witted  
quiet

rational  
reliable  
reserved  
resourceful  
romantic

self-confident  
self-disciplined  
sensible  
sensitive  
shy  
sincere  
sociable  
straightforward  
sympathetic

thoughtful  
tidy  
tough

unassuming  
understanding

versatile

warmhearted  
willing  
witty

**Negative Personality Adjectives**

aggressive  
aloof  
arrogant

belligerent  
big-headed  
bitchy  
boastful  
bone-idle  
boring  
bossy

callous  
cantankerous  
careless  
changeable  
clinging  
compulsive  
conservative  
cowardly  
cruel  
cunning  
cynical

deceitful  
detached  
dishonest  
dogmatic  
domineering

finicky  
flirtatious  
foolish  
foolhardy  
fussy

greedy  
grumpy  
gullible

harsh

impatient  
impolite  
impulsive  
inconsiderate  
inconsistent  
indecisive  
indiscreet  
inflexible  
interfering  
intolerant  
irresponsible

jealous

lazy

Machiavellian  
materialistic  
mean  
miserly  
moody

narrow-minded  
nasty  
naughty  
nervous

obsessive  
obstinate  
overcritical  
overemotional

parsimonious  
patronizing  
perverse  
pessimistic  
pompous  
possessive  
pusillanimous

quarrelsome  
quick-tempered

resentful  
rude  
ruthless

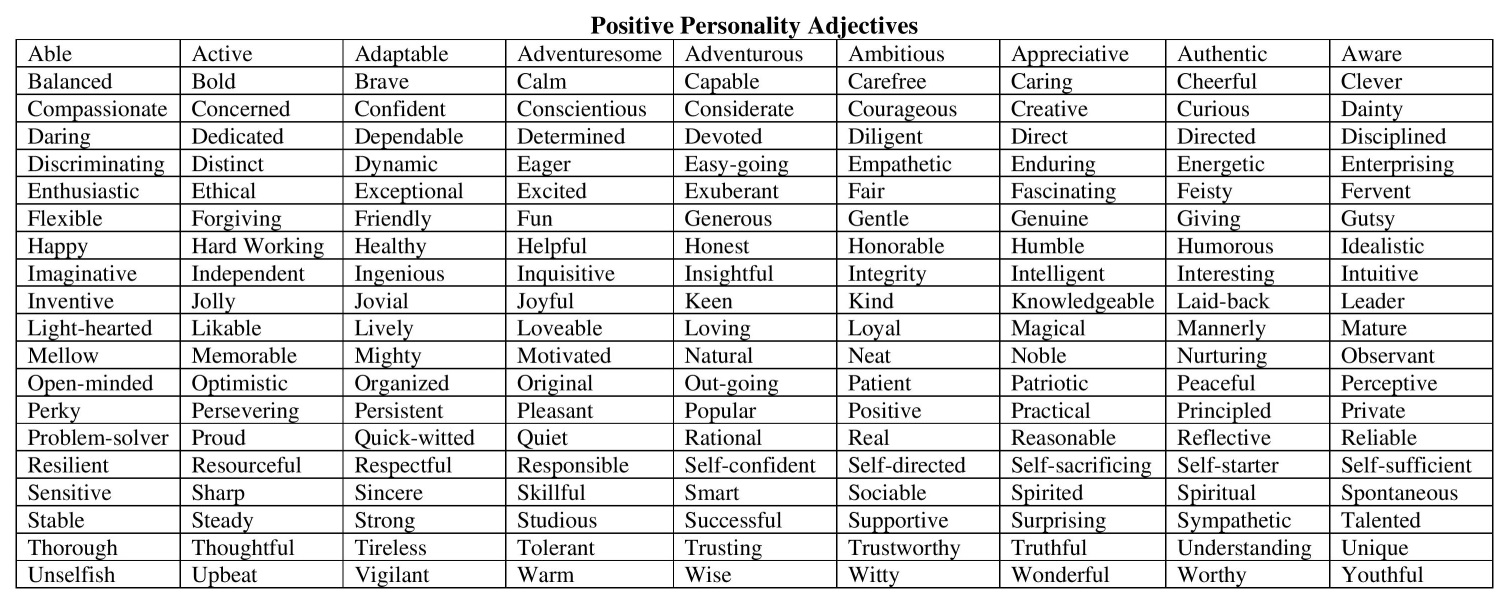
sarcastic  
secretive  
selfish  
self-centred  
self-indulgent  
silly  
sneaky  
stingy  
stubborn  
stupid  
superficial

tactless  
timid  
touchy  
thoughtless  
truculent

unkind  
unpredictable  
unreliable  
untidy  
untrustworthy

vague  
vain  
vengeful  
vulgar

weak-willed



18 Words to Describe Evil People

**sadistic**: getting pleasure from hurting others

**conniving**: behaving in a way that secretly hurts others or deliberately fails to prevent others from being hurt

**amoral**: not following any moral rules and not caring about right and wrong

**perverse**: showing deliberate determination to behave in a way that most people think is wrong or unacceptable

**ferocious**: very aggressive or violent

**tyrannical**: using power or authority over people in an unfair and cruel way

**devious**: behaving in a dishonest or indirect way, or tricking people, in order to get something

**ruthless**: determined to get what you want and not caring if you hurt other people

**faithless**: not loyal: that you cannot rely on or trusts

**treacherous**: willing to betra trust; intending to harm you while seeming friendly or loyal

**bloodthirsty**: wanting to kill or wound; enjoying seeing or hearing about killing and violence

**perfidious**: deliberately dishonest and unablt to be trusted

**rapacious**: wanting more money or goods than you need or have a right to

**vicious**: violent and having a desire to cause pain and suffering

**savage**: aggressive, violent, and causing great harm

**degenerate**: having moral standards that have fallen to a level that is very low and unacceptable to most people

**bigoted**: strongly and unfairly hating or refusing to accept members of a group

**cold-blooded**: showing no feelings or pity for other people

**BODY LANGUAGE AND GESTURES**from MASTER LISTS FOR WRITERS by Bryn Donovan bryndonovan.com

she nodded

he bobbed his head

she tilted her head

he cocked his head

she inclined her head

he put his head in his hands

he covered his eyes with a hand

she hid behind her book

she pressed her hands to her cheeks

she raised her chin

he lifted his chin

her hands squeezed into fists

his hands tightened into fists

she clenched her fists

she balled her fists

he unclenched his fists

her arms remained at her sides

his arms dangled at his sides

he shrugged

she gave a half shrug

he lifted his shoulder in a half shrug

she gave a dismissive wave of her hand

she raised a hand in greeting

he waved

she held up her hands

he lifted his hands

she held up her palms

he threw his hands in the air

she brushed her palms together

her rubbed his hands together

she made a steeple of her fingers

he spread his hands

she gesticulated

she fanned herself

he flapped his hands

he waved his hands

she clapped her hands

he snapped his fingers

she held up a finger

she wagged a finger

he pointed

she gestured with a thumb

he jerked his thumb toward…

she extended her middle finger toward him

he gave her the finger

she flipped him the bird

she gave him the thumbs up

he gave him the okay sign

she flashed a peace sign

she drew a finger across her throat

he twirled a finger next to his temple

she gave a mock salute

he pretended to shoot himself in the head

she waggled her hips

he thrust his pelvis

he put his hands on his hips

she rested a hand on her hip

she jutted out her hip

she shoved her hands into her pockets

he jammed his hands in his pockets

she folded her arms

he crossed his arms over his chest

she hugged herself

he wrapped his arms around himself

she rubbed her forearms

she spread her arms wide

she held out her hand

he extended a hand

he shook his head

she turned her face away

he looked away

his breaths quickened

she panted

she was breathing hard

his chest rose and fell with rapid breaths

she took in a deep breath

he drew in a long breath

she took in a sharp breath

he gasped

she held her breath

he let out a harsh breath

she exhaled

he blew out his cheeks

she huffed

he sighed

she snorted

she laughed

he giggled

she guffawed

he chuckled

she gave a bitter laugh

he gave a mirthless laugh

she tittered

he cackled

she rubbed her shoulder

he kneaded his shoulder

he rolled his shoulders

she tensed her shoulders

he massaged the back of his neck

she rubbed her temples

she rubbed her hands on her thighs

she ran her hand through her hair

he threaded a hand through his hair

he shoved his hair away from his face

she toyed with a lock of hair

she played with her hair

she twirled her hair

she wrapped a curl around her finger

she tucked a lock of hair behind her ear

he undid his ponytail

she shook out her hair

she tossed her hair

he buried his hands in his hair

she tugged at her hair

he stroked his beard

he scratched his beard

she tugged at her earlobe

he bit a nail

she chewed on a cuticle

she picked at her nails

she inspected her fingernails

he plucked at the cuff of his shirt

she picked lint from her sleeve

he adjusted the lapels of his jacket

she fiddled with her earring

he twisted the ring on his finger

she played with her cell phone

he tugged at his shirt collar

he adjusted his tie

she smoothed down her skirt

she scratched her nose

he scratched his head

she rubbe3d her forehead

he blotted his forehead with a handkerchief

she slapped her forehead

he smacked his forehead

he facepalmed

she rubbed her eyes

she pinched the bridge of her nose

he held his nose

he slapped a hand over her mouth

she covered her mouth with her hand

he slapped his knee

she pressed her fingers to her lips

he tapped his fingers against his lips

she held her finger up to her lips

he rubbed his chin

she pressed a hand to her throat

she touched her hand to her heart

he pounded his chest

he clutched his chest

he leaned against the wall

she bounced on her toes

he danced in place

she jumped up and down

he tapped his foot

he stomped his foot

her toes curled

she folded her hands in her lap

she drummed her fingers on the table

she tapped his fingers on the table

he slammed his hand on the table

she pounded her fist on the table

she set her pals down flat on the table

he rested his hands on the table

she set her hands on the table, palms up

he leaned back in his chair

she hooked her feet around the chair legs

he gripped the arm of the chair

she put her hands behind her head

he put his feet up on the desk

he fidgeted

she jiggled her foot

he swung his leg

she crossed her legs

he uncrossed his legs

she crossed her ankles in front of her

she stretched out her legs in front of her

he sprawled out

he shuddered

she flinched

he recoiled

he shivered

she trembled

his body shook

she cowered

he shrank back

she huddled in the corner

he pulled away

she jerked away

he turned away

she stilled

he froze

she jolted upright

he stiffened

she straightened

he tensed

he jumped

she jumped to her feet

he stood up

she rose from her seat

she relaxed

he hunched

she slouched

her shoulders sagged

his shoulders slumped

her shoulders rounded

his chest caved

he drooped

she wilted

he went limp

he rolled his shoulders

she sq1uared her shoulders

she clasped her hands behind her back

he puffed out his chest

she thrust out her chest

he propped his chin on his hand

she rested her chin on her palm

he yawned

she stretched

he turned around

she whirled around

he pivoted

she reeled

he staggered

her knees buckled

she stepped away

she drew nearer

he leaned closer

she inched forward

he loomed closer

he paced

she shifted form one foot to the other

she rocked back and forth

he shuffled his feet

he swayed on his feet

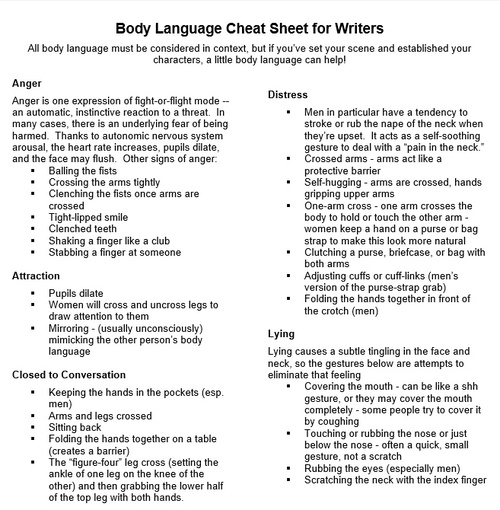
she dragged her

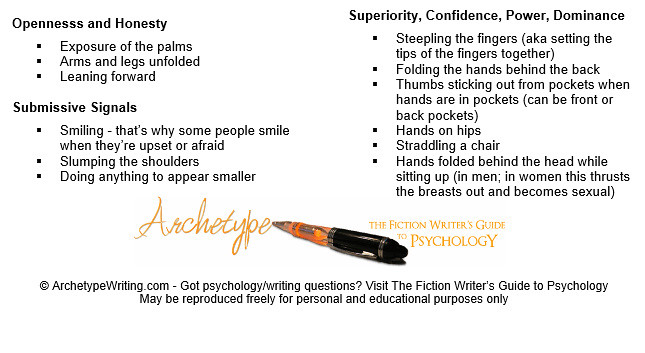
she cringed feet

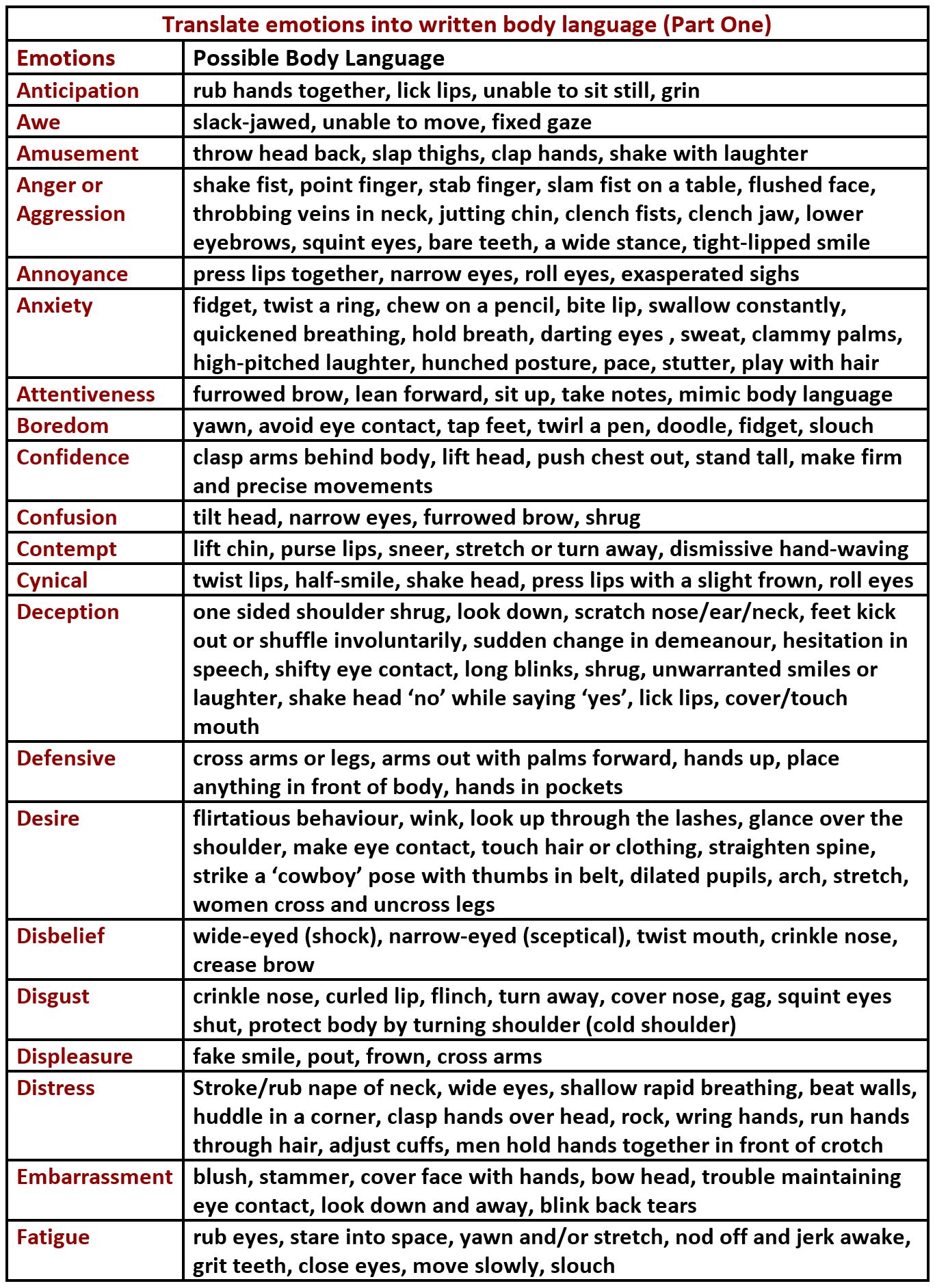
she pumped a fist

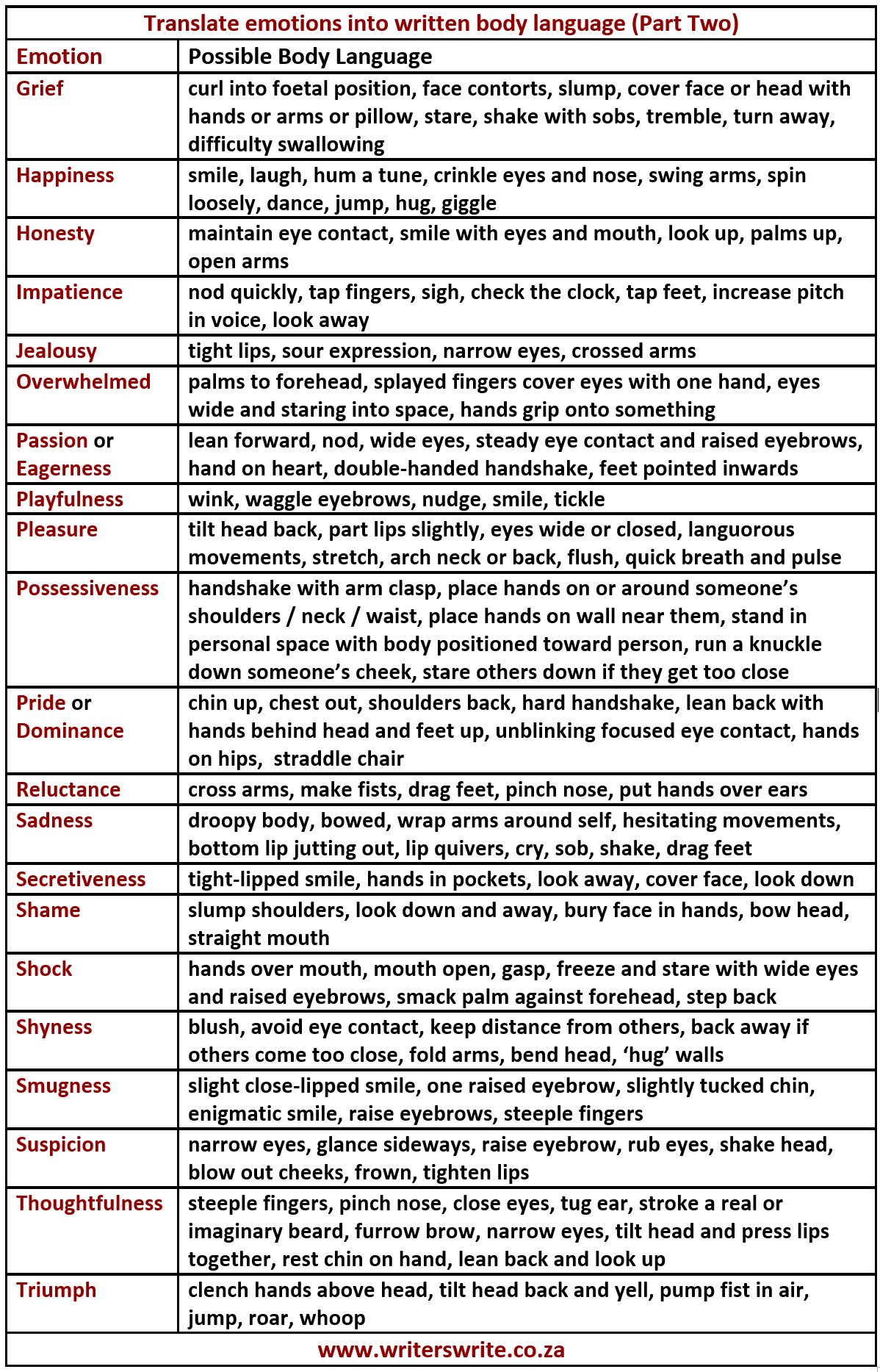
he thrust his fists in the air

she punched the air









## Image result for ear clip artWays To **Describe Sounds**

#### **General** Words Describing Sounds

1. audible – a sound that is loud enough to hear
2. broken – a sound that has spaces in it
3. emit – to make a sound
4. grinding – a sound of one hard thing moving against another
5. hushed – a sound that is quiet
6. inaudible – a sound that is difficult to hear
7. monotonous – a sound that is always the same and never gets louder or quieter, or higher or lower
8. muffled – a sound that is not easy to hear because it is blocked by something
9. plaintive – a sound that has a sad quality
10. rhythmic – a sound that has a clear, regular pattern
11. staccato – a sound where each word or sound is clearly separate

#### Describing **Pleasing** Sounds

1. dulcet – soft and pleasant
2. lilting – a sound that has a rising and falling pattern
3. listenable – easy to listen to
4. mellow – a soft, smooth, pleasant sound
5. melodic – beautiful sound
6. musical – sounds like music
7. pure – a clear, beautiful sound
8. rich – a sound that is strong in a pleasant way
9. soft – quiet and peaceful
10. sonorous – a sound that is deep and strong in a pleasant way
11. sweet – a pleasant sound

#### Describing **Noisy** Sounds

1. at full blast – as loudly as possible
2. almighty – used for emphasising how loud something is
3. brassy – a sound that is loud and unpleasant
4. deafening – a sound so loud you cannot hear anything else
5. ear-splitting – extremely loud
6. explosive – a sound that is loud and unexpected
7. howling – a continuous, low, loud noise
8. insistent – a continuous, loud, strong noise
9. loud – a sound that is strong and very easy to hear
10. noisy – a sound that is full of [noise](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/noise)
11. percussive – a sound that is short, like someone hitting a drum
12. piercing – a sound that is very  loud, high, and unpleasant
13. pulsating – strong, regular pattern
14. raucous – rude, violent, noisy
15. resounding – a sound that is loud and that continues for a while
16. riotous – lively and noisy
17. roaring – a deep, loud noise
18. rowdy – noisy and causing trouble
19. sharp – a sound that is sudden and loud
20. shrill – a sound that is loud, high, and unpleasant
21. thundering – extremely loud
22. thunderous – loud
23. tumultuous –  a sound that includes noise, excitement, activity, or violence
24. uproarious – extremely noisy

#### Words That Help You Show And Not Tell Sounds

Many of these words that help you [show and not tell](https://writerswrite.co.za/five-simple-ways-to-help-writers-show-and-not-tell/) are examples of [onomatopoeia](https://literarydevices.net/onomatopoeia/). These words imitate natural sounds.

* The bees **buzzed** outside my window.
* The wind **sighed**.
* The leaves **crackled** and **crunched** under his feet.

Use this list to make your writing come alive.

1. babble – a gentle, pleasant sound of water as it moves along in a river
2. bang – to move, making loud noises
3. beep – a short high sound or several short high sounds
4. blare – to make a loud and unpleasant noise
5. blast – to make a loud sound with a car horn
6. bleep – a short high sound or several short high sounds
7. boom – to make a deep loud sound that continues for some time
8. caterwaul – an unpleasant loud high noise
9. chime – a high ringing sound like a bell or set of bells
10. chink – a high ringing sound when knocked together, or to make something do this
11. clack -to make a short loud sound like one hard object hitting against another
12. clang – a loud, metallic sound
13. clank – a short, loud sound
14. clash – a loud, metallic sound
15. clatter – a series of short, sharp noises
16. click – a short sound like the sound when you press a switch
17. clink – to make the short high sound of glass or metal objects hitting each other, or to cause objects to make this sound
18. cluck – to make a short, low sound with your tongue
19. crash – a sudden loud noise, as if something is being hit
20. creak – if something creaks, especially something wooden, it makes a high noise when it moves or when you put weight on it
21. drone – to make a low continuous noise
22. fizz – a soft sound that small gas bubbles make when they burst
23. groan – a long, low, sound
24. growl – a low, unpleasant noise
25. grunt – to make a short low sound in your throat and nose at the same time
26. gurgle – the low sound water makes when it is poured quickly from a bottle
27. honk – to make a loud noise using a horn, especially the horn of a car
28. hoot – to make a short loud sound as a warning
29. mewl – crying with a soft, high sound
30. moan – a long, low sound
31. neigh – to make a high loud sound like a horse’s neigh
32. peal – if a bell peals, or if someone peals it, it makes a loud sound
33. peep – if a car’s horn peeps, it makes a sound
34. ping – to make a short high sound like the sound of a small bell
35. pipe – to make a very high sound, or to speak in a very high voice
36. pop – a sudden noise like a small explosion
37. putter – a short, quiet, low sound at a slow speed
38. ring – to make a bell produce a sound
39. roar – to make a continuous, very loud noise
40. rumble – a continuous deep sound
41. scream – to make a very loud high noise
42. scream – to make a very loud high noise
43. screech – to make a loud, high, and unpleasant noise
44. scrunch – to make a loud noise like something being crushed
45. sigh – a long, soft, low sound
46. squeak – to make a short, high noise
47. squeal – to make a long high sound
48. squee – to make a loud high noise because you are excited or happy
49. thrum- to make a low regular noise like one object gently hitting another many times
50. thud – a dull sound when falling or hitting something
51. thump – to hit against something with a low loud sound
52. tinkle – to make a high, ringing sound
53. wail – to make a long, high sound
54. wheeze – a high sound, as though a lot of air is being pushed through it
55. whine – a high, loud sound
56. whirr – a fast, repeated, quiet sound
57. whisper – to make a quiet, gentle sound
58. whistle – to make a high sound by forcing air through your mouth in order to get someone’s attention
59. yelp – a short, loud, high sound, usually caused by excitement, anger, or pain
60. yowl – a long, loud, unhappy sound or complaint

#### Image result for nose clip art**General Words Describing Smells**

Use these words that describe smells when you are setting a scene.

1. antiseptic – clean or pure smell that is bland an characterless
2. aroma – a smell that is strong but pleasant
3. comforting – pleasant aroma
4. delicate – subtle, faint, smell that is not overpowering
5. evocative – a smell that makes you think of something, often something that you experienced in the past
6. faint – a smell that is not strong
7. fragrance – a sweet or pleasant odour
8. heady – strongly aromatic, pungent, rich, intoxicating, spicy, piquant – not a mild smell
9. heavy – a sweet and strong smell
10. intoxicating – A smell that exhilarates, disorients, or excites
11. laden – a literary word that describes a strong smell
12. odour/odor – a smell
13. odorous – a strong smell
14. odourless – with no smell
15. piquant – stinging, pungent, an aroma that tickles the nose.
16. powerful –  a strong smell
17. redolent – smelling of something
18. reek – to smell strongly and unpleasantly
19. scent – a particular smell, especially a pleasant one
20. whiff – a slight smell of something

#### Words That Describe **Unpleasant Smells**

1. acrid – a smell that is strong, bitter, and unpleasant in your nose and throat
2. damp – a wet smell
3. fetid – an unpleasant smell, usually caused by decay
4. frowsty – an unpleasant smell caused by a lack of fresh air
5. funky – a strong and unpleasant smell
6. fusty – smells old, dusty, or damp
7. high – an old-fashioned word that describes a strong flavour and smell
8. malodorous – scented, aromatic, redolent, fragrant, stinking.
9. musty – unpleasant, stale, and not fresh
10. nasty – unpleasant smell
11. nauseating – a smell that causes disgust, loathing, or revulsion
12. noisome – extremely unpleasant, especially because of being very dirty or having a bad smell
13. overpowering  – very strong smell
14. pungent – a smell that is strong and sharp
15. putrid – decaying and smelling very bad
16. rancid – rancid food is no longer fresh and has an unpleasant smell
17. rank – a strong unpleasant smell or taste
18. ripe – a strong or unpleasant smell
19. sickly – makes you feel sick
20. smelly – an unpleasant smell
21. sour – a taste or smell that is no longer fresh
22. stale – not fresh or pleasant
23. stench  – a very bad smell, especially of decay
24. stinking – an unpleasant smell
25. stuffy – a smell caused by an area with no fresh air in it

#### Words That Describe **Pleasant Smells**

1. ambrosial – sweet smelling, fragrant, aromatic
2. aromatic – perfumed, fragrant, scented, sweet smelling, pungent, usually pleasing
3. bouquet – the particular smell of a wine or flower
4. delicious – a pleasant smell
5. fresh – a pleasant, newly made smell that can be clean, clear, cool, crisp, refreshing, sweet, warm
6. fragrant – with a pleasant smell
7. perfumed – pleasant to smell because perfume has been added or used, or it has a natural perfume
8. rich – a smell that is strong in a pleasant way
9. savoury/savory – pleasant to  taste – spicy, pungent, flavoursome, and aromatic, salty but not sweet
10. scented – a pleasant smell
11. sweet  – a pleasant smell that is sweet
12. tangy – a smell or taste that is strong and bitter in a pleasant way

#### Words That **Smell Like Something**

1. [citrusy](https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/citrusy) – characteristic of citrus fruit in scent
2. earthy – smelling like earth
3. fishy – smelling like fish
4. floral – smelling of flowers
5. flowery – a flowery smell reminds you of flowers
6. fruity – smelling like fruit
7. [gamy](https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/gamy) – having the distinctive fragrance of game (wild meat)
8. garlicky – smelling of garlic
9. leathery – smells like leather
10. lemony – smells like lemon
11. medicinal – smells like medicine
12. musky – similar to musk in smell
13. peachy – similar to a peach in colour, taste, or smell
14. smoky – smelling of smoke
15. woody – an earthy smell, smelling of wood

Words To Describe **Tastes And Flavours**

1. acidic – very sour
2. astringent – an astringent taste is one that is strong and bitter
3. bitter – a strong sharp taste that is not sweet
4. bitter-sweet – tasting bitter and sweet at the same time
5. brackish – has a slight taste of salt and is therefore not pure
6. hot – contains a lot of spices that create a burning feeling in your mouth
7. mature – has been left to develop a pleasant strong flavour
8. mild – does not have a strong taste
9. ripe – has a strong flavour
10. robust – has a lot of flavour
11. savoury – tasting of salt or spices and not sweet
12. seasoned – containing seasonings to improve flavour
13. sharp – has a strong and bitter flavour
14. sour – with a taste like a lemon
15. spicy – has a strong hot flavour
16. sweet-and-sour – contains both sweet and sour flavours
17. syrupy – thick, sweet, and sticky
18. tart – a slightly sour taste
19. unsalted – not flavoured with salt
20. watery – pale, or not strong

## https://media.istockphoto.com/vectors/double-tap-touch-gesture-icon-vector-id955398784?b=1&k=6&m=955398784&s=612x612&h=s11KFa_DiuRAPKLEJ8vwIeqQ18Zr3CVuq1D_5uUc7fE=**Words To Describe Touch**

#### The ABCs of Touch

* Abrasive, Ample, Angular
* Bald, Barbed, Bendable, Blemished, Blistered, Bloated, Blunt, Bristly, Broken, Bubbly, Bulging, Bulky, Bumpy, Bushy
* Caked, Carved, Chafing, Chapped, Chunky, Circular, Clammy, Clean, Coarse, Cold, Cool, Corrugated, Cratered, Crenelated, Crocheted, Cushioned
* Damaged, Damp, Dehydrated, Dense, Dented, Dirty, Distended, Distorted,  Doughy, Downy, Drenched, Dry, Dusty,
* Embossed, Enamelled, Encrusted, Engorged, Engraved, Etched, Even
* Fat, Feathery, Filmy, Firm, Flat, Fleecy, Flimsy, Fluffy, Fluted, Fragile, Freezing, Frigid, Frothy, Furry, Fuzzy,
* Gelatinous, Glassy, Glazed, Glossy, Glutinous, Gnarled, Gooey, Gossamer, Grainy, Granular, Grating, Gravelly, Greasy, Grimy, Gritty, Grooved, Grubby
* Hairy, Hard, Harsh, Hollow, Hot
* Icy, Impenetrable, Imprinted, Indented, Inflated, Inlaid, Inscribed, Ironed, Irregular, Itchy
* Jagged
* Knitted
* Layered, Leathery, Level, Limp, Lined, Long-haired, Loose, Luke-warm, Lumpy
* Malleable, Metallic, Moist, Mosaic, Mushy
* Narrow, Neat
* Oily, Ornamented
* Padded, Patterned, Pleated, Pliable, Pockmarked, Pointed, Pointy, Polished, Pot-holed, Prickly, Printed, Pulpy
* Ragged, Rasping, Razor-sharp, Refined, Ribbed, Ridged, Rigid, Rough, Rubbery, Rusty, Rutted
* Sandy, Saturated, Scalding, Scarred, Scored, Scraped, Scratched, Sculptured, Serrated, Shaggy, Sharp-edged, Sheer, Silky, Slick, Slimy, Slippery, Smooth, Soaked, Soapy, Sodden, Soft, Soggy, Soiled, Solid, Sopping, Spiky, Spiny, Spongy, Springy, Steely, Stiff, Sticky, Stubbly, Stuccoed, Sweaty, Swollen, Syrupy
* Thick, Thin, Thorny, Throbbing, Tiled, Tough, Tweedy
* Unblemished, Unbreakable, Uncomfortable, Uneven, Unyielding
* Varnished, Velvety, Veneered, Vibrating, Viscous
* Warm, Waterlogged, Wavy, Wet, Wide, Wiry, Withered, Woollen, Woven, Wrinkled
* Yielding
* Zigzag

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Eyes – General** | | |
| *focus here is on physical descriptions rather than emotional expressions* | | |
| large small narrow sharp squinty round wide-set close-set deep-set sunken bulging protruding | wide hooded heavy-lidded bedroom bright sparkling glittering  flecked dull bleary rheumy | cloudy red-rimmed beady birdlike cat-like jewel-like steely hard fringed with long lashes with sweeping eyelashes with thick eyelashes |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Eyes – Color** | | |
| *Brown is the most common eye color by far. Green is quite rare.* | | |
| chestnut chocolate brown cocoa brown coffee brown mocha mahogany sepia sienna brown mink brown copper amber cognac whiskey brandy honey tawny topaz  aquamarine | hazel obsidian onyx coal raven midnight sky blue sunny blue cornflower blue steel blue ice blue Arctic blue glacial blue crystal blue cerulean electric blue azure lake blue | denim blue slate blue / slate gray storm blue / storm gray silver / silver gray chrome platinum pewter smoky gray ash gray concrete gray dove gray shark gray fog gray gunmetal gray olive emerald leaf green moss green |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Eyebrows** | | |
| arched straight plucked | sparse dark faint thin | thick unruly bushy heavy |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Skin – Color** | | |
| amber bronze cinnamon copper dark brown deep brown ebony honey golden pale | pallid pasty fair light cream / creamy alabaster ivory bisque milk porcelain | chalky  sallow olive peach rose / rose ruddy florid russet tawny fawn |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Skin – General** | | |
| *Some of these are better for the face, and some are better for other parts of the body.* | | |
| Lined wrinkled seamed leathery sagging drooping loose clear smooth silken satiny dry flaky scaly delicate thin | translucent luminescent baby-soft flawless poreless with large pores glowing dewy dull velvety fuzzy rough uneven  mottled dimpled | doughy firm freckled pimply pockmarked blemished pitted scarred bruised veined scratched sunburned weather-beaten raw tattooed |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Face – Structure** | | |
| Square| round oblong oval elongated narrow heart-shaped catlike wolfish high forehead | broad forehead  prominent brow ridge protruding brow bone sharp cheekbones high cheekbones angular cheekbones hollow cheeks square jaw chiseled sculpted craggy | jowly jutting chin pointed chin weak chin receding chin double chin cleft chin dimple in chin visible Adam’s apple soft |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nose** | | |
| snub dainty button turned-up long | broad thin straight pointed crooked | strong Roman bulbous flared hawk |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mouth/Lips** | | |
| thin narrow full lush  Cupid’s bow | rosebud dry rosy  cracked  chapped | moist  glossy gap between teeth gleaming white teeth underbite |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Facial Hair (or lack thereof)** | | |
| clean-shaven smooth-shaven beard neckbeard | goatee moustache sideburns mutton-chop sideburns | stubble a few days’ growth of beard five o’ clock shadow |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Hair – General** | | |
| long short shoulder-length loose limp dull shiny glossy sleek smooth luminous lustrous spiky stringy shaggy tangled messy tousled windblown fine | unkempt bedhead straggly neatly combed parted slicked down / slicked back cropped clipped buzzed / buzz cut crewcut bob mullet curly bushy frizzy wavy straight lanky dry thinning | oily greasy layers corkscrews spirals ringlets braids widow’s peak bald shaved comb-over afro thick luxuriant voluminous full wild untamed bouncy wispy |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Hair – Color** | | |
| Black blue-black jet black raven ebony inky black midnight sable salt and pepper silver / silver gray charcoal gray steel gray snow-white | brown brunette chocolate brown coffee brown ash brown brown sugar nut brown caramel tawny brown toffee brown red ginger auburn | copper strawberry blonde butterscotch honey wheat blonde golden sandy blond flaxen fair-haired bleached platinum |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Body Type – General** | | |
| tall average height short petite tiny compact big large burly beefy bulky brawny barrel-chested heavy / heavy-set fat overweight obese flabby lean slim taut ripped Herculean broad-shouldered  bowlegged | chunky chubby pudgy pot-bellied portly thick stout lush plush full-figured ample rounded generous voluptuous curvy hourglass plump leggy / long-legged gangling lanky coltish lissome willowy lithe sloping shoulders | slender trim thin skinny emaciated gaunt bony spare solid stocky wiry rangy sinewy stringy ropy sturdy strapping powerful hulking fit athletic toned built muscular chiseled |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Hands** | | |
| Delicate small large square sturdy strong | smooth rough calloused elegant plump manicured | stubby fingers long fingers ragged nails grimy fingernails ink-stained |



Using Higher Level Vocabulary: Fiction Writing

Try using time connectives, e.g. Meanwhile, Earlier, Later on, Soon, Eventually, After, Minutes later, Finally, In the afternoon …….

Remember connectives may be used as sentence starters.

Try using a verb with an **ing** ending, e.g.: Laughing, Running, Shouting, Yelling ……..

**Furiously**

Angrily

**Miserably**

Sulkily

Despondently

**Sadly**

Unluckily

Unfortunately

**Happily**

Luckily

Fortunately

Thankfully

**Quickly**

Rapidly

Swiftly

Briskly

Hastily

Hurriedly

**Carefully**

Gingerly

Nervously

Apprehensively

Slowly

Lethargically

Unhurriedly

**Suddenly**

Without warning

Immediately

Abruptly

Unexpectedly

Instantaneously

**explained**

elaborated

continued

added

suggested

commented

remarked

**moaned**

groaned

whined

complained

wailed

snivelled

sighed

**shouted**

yelled

bellowed

cried

screeched

barked

roared

**whispered**

murmured

mumbled

muttered

whimpered

**argued**

insisted

retorted

snapped

asserted

suggested

declared

**asked**

enquired

questioned

queried

**replied**

answered

responded

To start sentences

To connect sentences

although

however

because

also

since

when

meanwhile

nevertheless

as so

if or

To replace said

Using Higher Level Vocabulary: Fiction Writing

**confident**

certain

optimistic

in no doubt

convinced

positive

sanguine

**nervous**

anxious

apprehensive

worried

tense

uneasy

jittery

**big**

massive

gigantic

almighty

gargantuan

humongous

enormous

**brave**

valiant

plucky

bold

fearless

courageous

audacious

**quiet**

peaceful

tranquil

still

silent

noiseless

calm

**busy**

lively

crowded

hectic

teeming

swarming

bustling

**afraid**

frightened

terrified

petrified

terror-stricken

scared witless

panic-stricken

**angry**

furious

livid

outraged

annoyed

incensed

fuming

**ugly**

repulsive

grotesque

repugnant

revolting

hideous

vile

**beautiful**

attractive

handsome

gorgeous

stunning

exquisite

winsome

**scary**

eerie

spine-chilling

unnerving

sinister

frightening

creepy

**grand**

stately

impressive

magnificent

regal

splendid

majestic

**sad**

miserable

dejected

crestfallen

depressed

despondent

heartbroken

**happy**

ecstatic

euphoric

thrilled

elated

delighted

overjoyed

**horrible**

unpleasant

nasty

obnoxious

insufferable

disagreeable

loathsome

**nice**

pleasant

likable

charming

delightful

amiable

good natured

**unattractive**

ugly

unappealing

unsightly

hideous

disgusting

horrible

**attractive**

breathtaking

magnificent

awe-inspiring

glorious

spectacular

beautiful

To describe feelings

To describe characters

To describe settings

Higher Level Connectives

although

however

whereas

nonetheless

nevertheless

notwithstanding

consequently

subsequently

as a result of

therefore

hence

ergo

in addition

moreover

furthermore

as well as

also

plus

**Bank of High Level Vocabulary**

***Colours:*** saffron, indigo, scarlet, azure, emerald, hazel, turquoise, jaundiced, pea green, cyan, magenta, burgundy, cherry, ruby, sapphire, crimson, bloodshot, vermilion, maroon, auburn, chestnut, cobalt, aquamarine, navy, khaki, camouflage, vanilla, , pearly white, antique white, violet, beech, cadet blue, firebrick, tomato, coral, orchid, honeydew, ivory, lemon, peach, plum, gold, lavender, beige, fuchsia.

***Dramatic Verbs:*** snared, disturbed, smashed, blazed, swayed, tormented, straggling, lacerating, plunged, clashed, crackled, penetrated, blistering, jolted, splitting, darted, collapsed, trembled, engulfed, scurried, flickered, twitched, shattered, obliterated, throbbing, shuddered, exploded, oozed, quivered, gushed, raged, toiled, twisting, , writhed, swelled, crept, flapped, collided, pummelled, punctured, dissolved, clenched.

***Emotions:*** apprehension, solemnity, melancholy, underlying guilt, nausea, ennui, jealous, depressed, heartbroken, crestfallen, despondent, anxiety, vexed, morose, confused, hostile, ecstatic, elated, hatred, shame, contempt, pity, envy, benevolence, boredom, restlessness, bewilderment, awe, humiliation, suspicious, impatient, panic-stricken, disbelief, exasperation, resentment, defiance, curiosity, expectation, remorse, exhilaration,

***Adjectives:*** rigorous, merciless, relentless, arduous, rigid, vile, deformed, jagged, serrated, furtive, repulsive, monstrous, intolerable, distinct, prodigious, perilous, ghastly, vast, transparent, ruinous, obscure,

***Words to create an interesting character:*** mute, hesitant, aloof, prodigious, insolent, dispassionate, timid, bashful, surreptitious, indifferent, detached, unapproachable, intriguing, negligent, irresponsible, isolated, irritable, impudent, compelling, edgy, cantankerous, evasive, deceitful, fiery, impulsive, fervent, introverted, eccentric, callous, amoral, immoral, fickle, sentimental, compassionate, eager, inquisitive, indecisive, naïve, infatuated, affectionate, threatening, vicious, unpredictable, cynical, pessimistic, impertinent,

***Adjectives for describing food:*** bittersweet, acidic, peppery, spicy, tangy, sweet, flavoursome, fruity, bitter, sour, salty, sapid, citrus, appetising, sharp, sugary, insipid, bland, stale, watery, succulent, unpalatable, savoury, lukewarm, tingle, aftertaste,

***Sound Nouns:*** click, whisper, hush, silence, tiptoe, creak, tap, thud, knock, din, tone, resonance, vibration, ring, toll, chime, echo, scream, thump, yell, bawl, screech, wail, yelp, roar, shriek, bang, shout, uproar, babble, clunk, tick, inaudible, rattle, plod, hum, whirr, rev, crunch, beep, rumble, squeak, clatter, snore, bleep, yawn, snorted,

**TRANSITION WORDS**

To improve your writing you need to make sure that your ideas, both in sentences and paragraphs, stick together or have coherence and that the gap between ideas is bridged smoothly. One way to do this is by using transitions - words or phrases or techniques that help bring two ideas together. Transitional words and phrases represent one way of gaining coherence. Certain words help continue an idea, indicate a shift of though or contrast, or sum up a conclusion. Check the following list of words to find those that will pull your sentences and paragraphs together.

**For continuing a common line of reasoning:**

consequently  
clearly, then  
furthermore  
additionally  
and  
in addition  
moreover  
because  
besides that  
in the same way  
following this further  
also  
pursuing this further

**To change the line of reasoning (contrast):**

however  
on the other hand  
but  
yet  
nevertheless  
on the contrary

**For opening a paragraph initially or for general use:**

admittedly  
assuredly  
certainly  
granted  
no doubt  
nobody denies  
obviously  
of course

Clearly  
to be sure  
true  
undoubtedly  
unquestionably  
generally speaking  
in general  
at this level  
in this situation

**For the final points of a paragraph or essay:**

finally  
lastly

**Transitional chains, to use in separating sections of a paragraph which is arranged chronologically:**

first... second... third...  
generally... furthermore... finally  
in the first place... also... lastly  
in the first place... pursuing this further... finally  
to be sure... additionally... lastly  
in the first place... just in the same way... finally  
basically... similarly... as well

**To signal conclusion:**

therefore  
this  
hence  
in final analysis  
in conclusion  
in final consideration  
indeed

**To restate a point within a paragraph in another way or in a more exacting way:**

in other words  
point in fact  
specifically

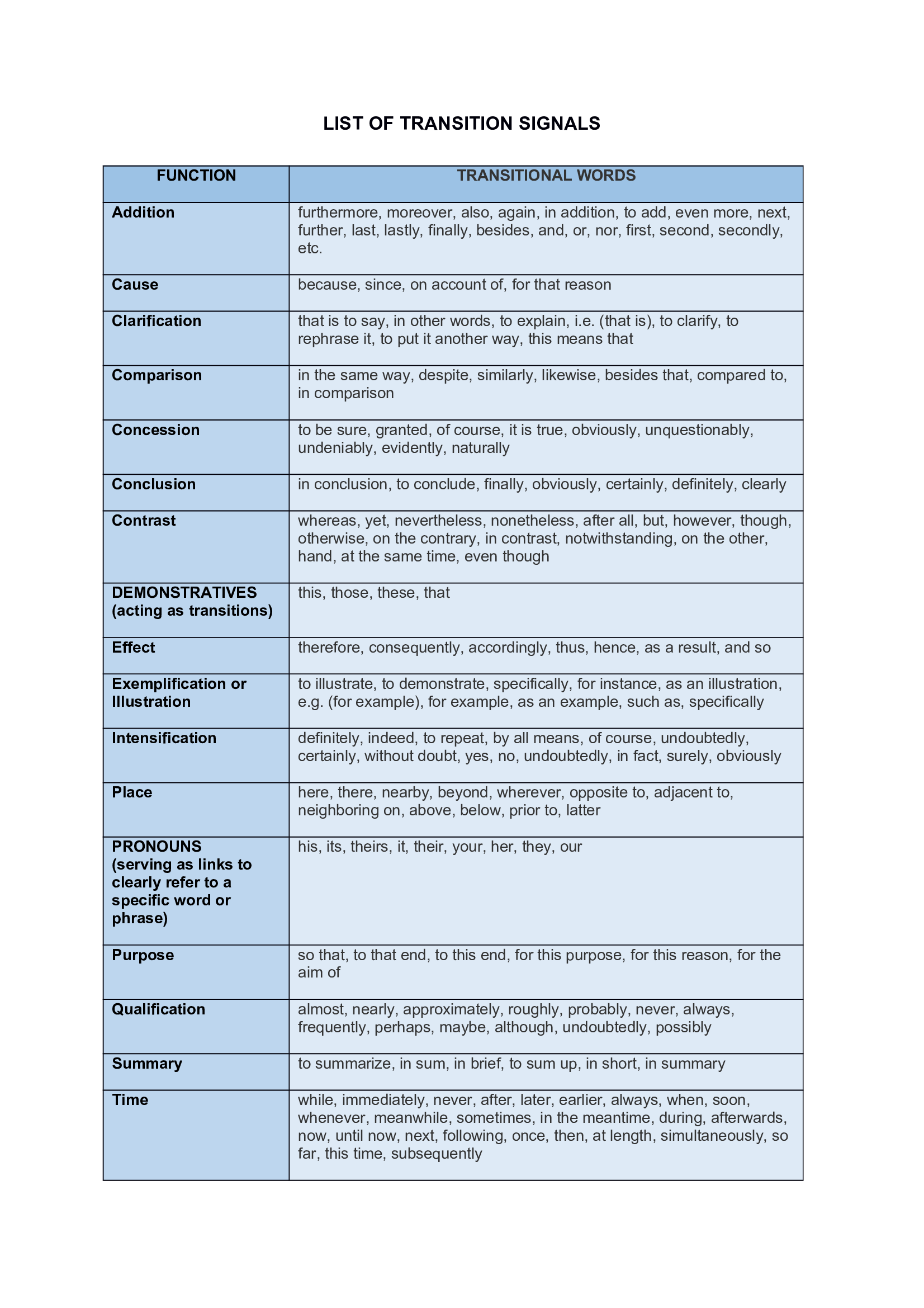
**Sequence or time**

after  
afterwards  
as soon as  
at first  
at last  
before  
before long  
finally  
first... second... third  
in the first place  
in the meantime  
later  
meanwhile  
next  
soon  
then

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The primary reason | It is apparent that ... | Conventionally,.. | These factors suggest ... | Previously,... |
| A major factor | Foundational to all this is ... | Another significant point is ... | The incident exemplifies... | For that reason... |
| Of major concern | Customarily, ... | In particular, ... | The traditional interpretation is ... | Prior to this, ... |
| The general consensus is ... | The statement presupposes... | The example demonstrates ... | Until now, ... | Another argument is ... |
| The evidence supports ... | The point maintains that ... | Historically,... | In the same way,... | In direct contrast is ... |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| It’s absolutely vital | It begs the question | That prompts the question,... | … needs further clarification | Moving on,... |
| considering …, we should ... | Looking ahead,... | Considering the implications | There are two sides to this issue... | Having said that, ... |
| In any case,... | Ordinarily speaking, ... | Another essential point worth considering is ... | Notably, the idea of ... | It is uncommon that... |
| Notwithstanding, the idea ... | By the same token, ... | For the most part,... | Looking at it from a different viewpoint, ... | As a rule, … *or*  Barring …, *or*  Save for ... |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| All things considered, ... | By and large, ... | In closing, ... | As has been noted, ... | In brief, … *or*  Briefly, |
| On balance, ... | On the whole, ... | With this in mind,... | In the long run, ... | In summary,... |



**Illustration**: Thus, for example, for instance, namely, to illustrate, in other words, in particular, specifically, such as.

**Contrast**: On the contrary, contrarily, notwithstanding, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true.

**Addition**: And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, than, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, first, second, etc., again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, otherwise.

**Time**: After, afterward, before, then, once, next, last, at last, at length, first, second, etc., at first, formerly, rarely, usually, another, finally, soon, meanwhile, at the same time, for a minute, hour, day, etc., during the morning, day, week, etc., most important, later, ordinarily, to begin with, afterwards, generally, in order to, subsequently, previously, in the meantime, immediately, eventually, concurrently, simultaneously.

**Space**: At the left, at the right, in the center, on the side, along the edge, on top, below, beneath, under, around, above, over, straight ahead, at the top, at the bottom, surrounding, opposite, at the rear, at the front, in front of, beside, behind, next to, nearby, in the distance, beyond, in the forefront, in the foreground, within sight, out of sight, across, under, nearer, adjacent, in the background.

**Concession**: Although, at any rate, at least, still, thought, even though, granted that, while it may be true, in spite of, of course.

**Similarity Or Comparison**: Similarly, likewise, in like fashion, in like manner, analogous to.

**Emphasis**: Above all, indeed, truly, of course, certainly, surely, in fact, really, in truth, again, besides, also, furthermore, in addition.

**Details**: Specifically, especially, in particular, to explain, to list, to enumerate, in detail, namely, including.

**Examples**: For example, for instance, to illustrate, thus, in other words, as an illustration, in particular, after all, even, indeed, in fact, or course, specifically, particularly, to demonstrate

**Consequence or Result**: So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, in other words, then.

**Suggestion**: For this purpose, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind, therefore.

**Sequence**: again, also, and, and then, besides, finally, first…second…third, furthermore, last, moreover, next, still, too

**Cause and effect**: accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, for this purpose, hence, so, then, therefore, thereupon, thus, to this end, due to, for the reason that, since, finally

**Place**: above, adjacent to, below, beyond, closer to, elsewhere, ,far, farther on, here, near, nearby, opposite to, there, to the left, to the right

**Summary, Repetition, or Conclusion**: as a result, as has been noted, as I have said, as we have seen, as mentioned earlier, in any event, in conclusion, in other words, in short, on the whole, therefore, to summarize, briefly, in brief, overall, given these facts, hence, in conclusion, summing up, to put it briefly, to sum up, so, therefore, thus, to conclude

**For continuing a common line of reasoning**: Consequently, clearly, then, furthermore, additionally, and, in addition, moreover, because, besides that, in the same way, following this further, indeed, also, pursuing this further, in fact, in the light of the… it is easy to see

**To change the line of reasoning (contrast):** however, on the other hand, but, yet, nevertheless, on the contrary

**For opening a paragraph initially or for general use:** admittedly, assuredly, certainly, granted, no doubt, nobody denies, obviously, of course, to be sure, true, undoubtedly, unquestionably, generally speaking, in general, at this level, in this situation

**For the final points of a paragraph or essay:** finally, lastly

**Transitional chains, to use in separating sections of a paragraph which is arranged chronologically:**first…second…third  
in the first place…also…lastly  
further…finally  
to be sure…additionally…lastly  
same way…finally  
basically…similarly…as well  
generally…furthermore…finally  
in the first place…pursuing this  
in the first place…just in the

**To signal conclusion:** therefore…this…hence...in final analysis…in conclusion…in final consideration…indeed

**To restate a point within a paragraph in another way or in a more exacting way:** in other words…point in face…specifically

**Sequence or time:** after, afterwards, as soon as, at first, at last, before, before long, finally, first…second…third, in the first place, in the meantime, later, meanwhile, next, soon, then

**To indicate a purpose or reason why:** for fear that, in the hope that, in order to, so, so that, with this in mind

