

LISTS OF SENSORY ADJECTIVES

When you are writing a sensory description, it is important to use specific words to accurately express what you are describing. The more precise the words, the more accurate and interesting the description will be. Also consider the connotative meanings associated with the words you select and determine if they are appropriate for your description. Use the following lists of sensory adjectives to help you find the right words.

(WORDS DESCRIBING SIGHT)

angular branching broken chubby clustered conical crimped crinkled curved cylindrical domed fat flared flat frilled hollow globular hexagonal jutting irregular lumpy narrow oval padded pendulous portly proportional rectangular round rotund ruffled scalloped swollen triangular tubular tufted top-heavy wavy winged wiry

(WORDS DESCRIBING COLORS)

<p>red</p> <p>brick burgundy cardinal cherry coral crimson garnet magenta maroon pink raspberry rose ruby salmon strawberry vermillion wine</p>	<p>blue</p> <p>aqua aquamarine azure cobalt navy peacock porcelain royal sapphire steel turquoise violet sky</p>	<p>yellow</p> <p>apricot beige butter buttercup butterscotch buff canary chrome gold lemon mustard ochre orange peach persimmon sulphur tangerine topaz</p>	<p>green</p> <p>apple celery chartreuse emerald lime kelly mint olive pistachio</p>	<p>white</p> <p>cream marble milky ivory oyster pearl platinum silver snow</p>
<p>purple</p> <p>lavender lilac magenta mauve mulberry plum orchid</p>	<p>black</p> <p>ebony jet licorice obsidian</p>	<p>gray</p> <p>ashen dove steel</p>	<p>brown</p> <p>almond amber bronze chocolate cinnamon coffee colorless copper ginger hazel mahogany nutmeg rainbow rust sandy tawny walnut</p>	<p>metallics</p> <p>bronze copper gold platinum</p>

(WORDS DESCRIBING TOUCH)

aqueous ashy astringent bumpy chalky coarse cold cool crisp crumbly damp delicate dry dull dusty elastic flakey fleshy flexible fragile furry fuzzy gelatinous gooey gritty hairy harsh icy jagged leathery lukewarm moist mushy nubby oily oozy papery prickly pulpy rubbery sandy satiny sensuous serrated sharp silky slick slimy slippery smooth soft spongy splintery steamy sticky tacky tender tepid textured thick thin tough velvety warm waxy wet woolly

(WORDS DESCRIBING TASTE)

acidic alkaline beefy bitter bittersweet bland bright briny burnt buttery cheesy chemically clean cloying crisp fishy fruity gingery hearty hot leathery luscious meaty medicinal mellow metallic minerally oily overripe peppery plastic raw ripe rotten salty rancid refreshing saccharine sharp sour spicy spoiled sugary sweet tart tangy toasty unripe vinegary

(WORDS DESCRIBING SMELL)

acidic acrid aromatic balmy briny burnt damp dank earthy fishy foul fragrant fresh fruity gaseous gamey heady mildew moldy musty odorous perfumed piney pungent putrid rancid rank reeking rotten savory scented sharp sickly sour spicy spoiled stagnant sulfurous sweet toasty

(WORDS DESCRIBING SOUND)

bang barking bedlam brawling booming braying chiming chomping clapping clamorous cracking crackling crashing deafening discord disorderly earsplitting exploding grating hush jangle noise pandemonium piercing growling racket rumbling screech slamming slithery smashing speechless squawk squish splat stamp stomp swish swoosh tearing thud thump thunder tumult yell bleat buzz chime clink creaky faint harmony gurgle hiss hum inaudible melody murmur musical mutter mute patter peep raspy resonance ripple ripping rustle sigh snap swish tinkle twitter whisper zing zip quiet silent