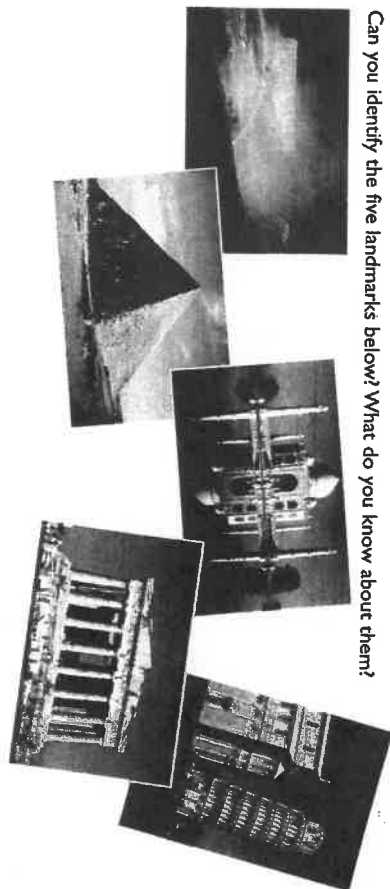




a description of a place/building

DISCUSS

Can you identify the five landmarks below? What do you know about them?



SAMPLE WRITING

As part of a class project, students have been asked to describe a famous landmark. Read the description below, written by a student. What is the writer's overall impression of the Eiffel Tower?

One of the world's most famous landmarks is the Eiffel Tower, which was designed and built by Alexandre G. Eiffel in 1889. It is located in the centre of Paris and has become a major tourist attraction, with thousands of tourists visiting it every year.

What makes the Eiffel Tower so special is its design and height. Being 300 metres high, this impressive tower is one of the tallest landmarks in Paris and can be seen from great distances. Of course most people prefer to visit and admire it up close.

The Eiffel Tower has three levels. By taking a lift or climbing hundreds of stairs, you can visit the restaurant on the first level and have a delicious French meal. The other two levels each have an observation deck, where you can enjoy spectacular views of Paris.

However, the Eiffel Tower is not only a tourist attraction. The department of meteorology has a weather station and an antenna at the top. This makes it even taller.

Without a doubt, the Eiffel Tower is an impressive and unforgettable sight. It is truly worth visiting.

Answer these questions:

- Which tenses are used in the description? Why?
- What is the topic of each paragraph?

PLAN

A description of a place/building is usually part of another type of writing: a magazine article, a brochure, a story etc. That is why descriptions are not all written in the same way. Below is a general plan of a description of a place/building, with questions to guide you.

Introduction (2-3 paragraphs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> give general information about the place/building you are going to describe 	<p>What is the place/building?</p> <p>Who built it and when?</p> <p>Where is it located?</p> <p>What makes this place/building interesting?</p> <p>Why are you writing about this place/building?</p>
Main part (2-3 paragraphs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the place (famous sights, population etc.) or the building (size, things to do and see etc.) 	<p>What does the place/building look like?</p> <p>What are the important features of this place/building?</p> <p>What makes this place/building special?</p> <p>What can you do/see there?</p> <p>What is the atmosphere of the place/building?</p>
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conclude by summarising your points include a general comment or your feelings 	<p>What is your general opinion of the place/building?</p> <p>How do you feel about the place/building?</p>

GUIDE TO WRITING

1 Decide what you are going to write about and the tense(s) you are going to use (Present and/or Past).	2 Write about a place/building you are familiar with. Otherwise, you won't know what to write.	3 Start a new paragraph for every major point.	4 Don't include unimportant details in your description. Choose to write about the most important and interesting features of the place/building.						
5 Include a variety of adjectives. Don't use the same ones all the time. Look at the table for ideas.	<table><tr><th>place</th><th>building</th><th>both</th></tr><tr><td>boring, busy, colourful, crowded, dangerous, exciting, friendly, lively, noisy, polluted, popular, spectacular, welcoming, wonderful</td><td>cosy, decorated, huge, luxurious, spacious, spooky, warm</td><td>ancient, attractive, beautiful, charming, empty, historic, impressive, interesting, isolated, large, modern, significant, traditional, ugly, unique, well-planned</td></tr></table>			place	building	both	boring, busy, colourful, crowded, dangerous, exciting, friendly, lively, noisy, polluted, popular, spectacular, welcoming, wonderful	cosy, decorated, huge, luxurious, spacious, spooky, warm	ancient, attractive, beautiful, charming, empty, historic, impressive, interesting, isolated, large, modern, significant, traditional, ugly, unique, well-planned
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- Use the Passive Voice whenever possible (e.g. The town is situated.... The skyscraper was built....).

- Use the pronoun "you" (informal) or "one" (formal) when you want to refer to people in general (e.g. There is a restaurant where you/one can enjoy a delicious meal).

