

Week 4: Describing Places

Practice 1: Read the brief description and replace each of the underlined words or phrases with a suitable word from the box

<i>abandoned</i>	<i>bleak</i>	<i>cramped</i>	<i>miserable</i>	<i>run-down</i>
------------------	--------------	----------------	------------------	-----------------

The row of (1) **empty** houses along the bank of a stagnant canal present a (2) **sad** picture. When lived in, they were (3) **too small**, filthy and in need of paint. Now they are (4) **old and broken**, their windows boarded over and fences sagging. The landscape in which they stand is (5) **empty and ugly** behind the canal and ruined houses there's a stretch of flat fields with no trees or grass.

1. 4.
2. 5.
3.

<i>astonished</i>	<i>enormous</i>	<i>exquisite</i>	<i>imposing</i>	<i>tranquil</i>
-------------------	-----------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

Visitors to the cathedral are usually (6) **surprised** at the (7) **impressive** elegance of its size and proportions. The (8) **very big** stained-glass windows with their (9) **wonderful** centuries-old pictures flood the interior with soft light and colour, creating a (10) **peaceful, quiet** atmosphere.

6. 9.
7. 10.
8.

Practice 2: Now match the ten words from the previous exercise with a synonym from the following list

1. astounded		6. dilapidated	
2. bare		7. magnificent	
3. crowded		8. massive	
4. deserted		9. serene	
5. depressing		10. superb	

Practice 3: Fill in the gaps with words from the list below. Use the words only one.

stretch out	set in	winds through	nestles at	surrounded by
perched on	curves around	sprawl out	located in	slopes down

1. The small house, which is _____ the centre of town, is full of antiques.
2. The narrow country lane _____ the wooded valley.
3. The steep hillside _____ the seashores.
4. The hotel is _____ the towering Welsh mountains.
5. The river _____ the base of the mountain.
6. The plains _____ in every direction.
7. The cabin is _____ precariously _____ the cliff top.
8. The suburbs _____ into the countryside.
9. The tiny village is _____ the foot of the mountain.
10. The temple, which is _____ oak trees, is difficult to see from a distance.

Practice 4. Read the description and fill in the gaps with a suitable preposition.

Standing (1) _____ the top of the old stone steps, you can see a variety of architectural style (2) _____ the houses that line in the main street. The steps lead (3) _____ to a small, open area just (4) _____ the corner (5) _____ the main street.

Facing you as you stand (6) _____ the bottom of the steps is a shop, which is (7) _____ a four-storey building that stands (8) _____ the corner of the street.

(9) _____ you right there are a few tables (10) _____ the pavement (11) _____ a small café which is housed (12) _____ a large, imposing building. A small balcony (13) _____ the first floor hangs (14) _____ the entrance of the café.

Further (15) _____ the street, (16) _____ the right hand side is a quaint two-storey building with gable windows built into the attic. The street disappears (17) _____ the distance as the wooded hillside rises (18) _____ the whole scene.