description

1 Verb + description

Use the correct form of these verbs:

contain	*defy*	*fit*
give	*issue*	*write*

1. It had been a clear night. The girl saw her attacker clearly, so she was able to ..... the police an pretty accurate description of him.
2. No words could describe the beauty of the scenery. It ..... description.
3. Police have ..... a description of a man they wish to question in connection with a fatal accident in the city centre.
4. A boy, ... the description of the missing child, was seen walking along the riverbank just before midnight last night.
5. ..... a short description of your home town.
6. Tonight's documentary on new medicines is not suitable for children as it ..... a shocking description of animals being used to test drugs.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

apt	*brief*	*detailed*
vague	*vivid*	*accurate*

1. A member of the public has come forward with a full and ..... description of the men who robbed the post office. The police are now confident that they will catch the robbers.
2. Her description of the scenery was so ..... that when I closed my eyes I could see snow-covered mountains clearly in my mind.
3. 'Like a fish out of water' is an ..... description of how I felt at the party. I felt so awkward and uncomfortable.
4. What can you say in 50 words? The ..... description on the back cover of the book is only intended to give you a quick idea of what the book is about.
5. If the police asked you to give a description of someone you met 2 months ago, how ..... would it be?
6. We only had a very ..... description of Thupten, but we had no trouble recognising him as soon as he appeared through customs.

Go back and underline the adjective collocations.



"Yes, 'like a fish out of water' is a very apt description of how I'm feeling!"

Notes

1. In 1-4 'matching' is also possible.
2. When you apply for a job, it is normal to be given a 'job description'.
   I refused to work on Sunday as there was no mention of working at weekends in my job description.
3. Note the following expressions:
   There were planes of every description at the air show. (of all kinds)
   When the dentist hit the nerve in my tooth, the pain was beyond description.
   He's a great writer with remarkable powers of description.
4. Three adjectives used to describe something in a very special and memorable way are: graphic, lurid, and vivid. For example:
   There's a lurid description in chapter 4 of the affair between the young girl and the priest.
   Jo gave us a vivid description of her experiences travelling round India.
   The description of what the murderer did to his victims was graphic in the extreme!
5. A 'general description' provides the main ideas or facts. For example:
   The internet guide only gives a general description of Bangkok. If you want more details, you're better buying a proper guidebook.

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