

Writing Exercise:

The exercise was to go someplace and write three paragraphs, each using only one sense for description. Then a fourth paragraph is written, taking elements from each of the previous three to produce a multi-sense descriptive paragraph. Okay, call me an over achiever. I wrote paragraphs for all five senses.

1. Sight

Robert sat to the far right of the booth to avoid the glare of the sun shining through the sub shop front window. Cindy smiled from the other side of the table as she raised her six inch sub to her mouth for a bite. Only two of the half dozen tables were occupied and the man behind the raised glass counter was busy wiping the cut table while he waited for another customer. A white blob appeared on Cindy's plate as she forced mayonnaise from the bottom of her sandwich by taking a large bite. Robert thought it would be nice to own stock in the mayonnaise company when his bite produced a similar white blot on his plate. By putting on so much that it fell out of the sandwiches the shop must go through a lot. Robert decided to call his broker after lunch.

2. Touch

Robert sat in the booth, his back absorbing the warmth caused by sunlight shining through the window. His jeans easily slid along the smooth plastic bench. Robert greedily picked up his sub. As he squeezed the sandwich together so he could fit it into his mouth, small bits of the crust broke off and fell to the plate. It made the surface of the sub rough. Robert could feel it on his fingers and he compressed the sub and on his lips

as he took a bite. After the bite Robert had to wipe excess mayo from the corner of his mouth, the coarseness of the cheap napkin scratching his lips. Too much mayo and chapped lips were not a good combination.

3. Sound

The bench creaked as Robert's weight flexed the molded plastic of the booth seat. Rock and roll music playing from the radio next to the cash register wasn't too loud, but enough to cover the scraping sound as Robert slid his tray across the table to where he sat. A creak from the bench across from him announced Cindy's arrival to the booth. Too hungry for conversation, Robert picked up his sandwich and took a bite. The crunch of the lettuce attested to its freshness as much as Robert's hum of approval attested to his satisfaction.

4. Taste

The first thing that Robert noticed was the tanginess of the mayonnaise as he took a bite of his sub. It overpowered the subtle taste of the soft white roll, but not the meat and vegetables. He had hoped the tomatoes would have more taste, but he'd become accustomed to the juicy but flavorless variety when he didn't grow them himself. At least the ham was tender and without any hard bits that cheap processed ham tended to have. The cheddar cheese added a thick binding texture worked to bring the mix of the sandwich together. Robert took another bite, bigger this time, and swallowed before he sucked a drink from the bottle of spring water. Cool and without added flavor, it cleansed his pallet for the next bite.

5. Smell

The smell of fresh baked bread erased the smell of gasoline that had invaded Robert's nostrils just a few minutes before when he had filled the tank of his car. When he sat down with his own, the smell of the ham mingled with the bread as he ate his sub. After he finished the sandwich, Robert made a pit stop before getting back on the road. The scent of bread was left behind as he closed the bathroom door behind him. The slight scent of pine meant the bathroom had been cleaned at some point, but the stronger smell of old urine told Robert it hadn't been recent. It was strong and drove the pleasant memories of the fragrant bread from his mind. Robert decided he'd have to start taking his bathroom break before he ate rather than after.

6. Combo

The smell of fresh baked bread erased the smell of gasoline that had invaded Robert's nostrils just a few minutes before when he had filled the tank of his car. After ordering his sub at counter he took a seat, a creak from the bench across from him announced Cindy's arrival to the booth. As he raised the sandwich to his mouth, he hoped the tomatoes would have some taste, but he'd become accustomed to the juicy flavorless variety that he got when he didn't grow them himself. He bit, as did Cindy. A white blob appeared on Cindy's plate as she forced mayonnaise from the bottom of her sandwich with a large bite. After his bite Robert wiped excess mayo from the corner of his mouth, the coarseness of the cheap napkin scratching his lips.