

Show vs Tell Worksheet

Use this worksheet to practice transforming “telling” statements into “showing” descriptions. Showing creates vivid imagery, engages readers’ senses, and strengthens your descriptive writing.

Part 1: Identify Telling Statements

Read the sentences below. Highlight or underline words that “tell” the reader how a character feels, how a place looks, or how an object is.

1. She was nervous about the presentation.
2. The garden was beautiful.
3. He was angry at the news.
4. The library was quiet.
5. The cake was delicious.

Part 2: Convert Telling to Showing

Rewrite each sentence to show the reader what is happening through observable details, sensory descriptions, and figurative language. Aim to engage sight, sound, smell, touch, or taste where appropriate.

Example:

- Telling: She was sad.
- Showing: Her shoulders slumped, and her eyes glistened as she traced the edge of the empty chair.

Your Turn:

1. She was nervous about the presentation.
2. The garden was beautiful.
3. He was angry at the news.
4. The library was quiet.
5. The cake was delicious.

Part 3: Feedback on Common Patterns

When converting telling statements into showing descriptions, watch for these common issues:

- **Vague adjectives:** Replace generic words like “beautiful” or “nice” with specific sensory details.
- **Overuse of emotions:** Show emotions through actions, expressions, or sensory reactions instead of naming the feeling.
- **Single-sense descriptions:** Engage multiple senses when possible for richer description.
- **Missing figurative language:** Use metaphors, similes, or personification to enhance imagery.
- **Disconnected details:** Ensure all details support a dominant impression or mood.

Part 4: Bonus Challenge

Take one of your rewritten “showing” sentences and expand it into a short paragraph (3–5 sentences). Include at least three senses and at least one figurative language device.

