

describe

[dis'kraib] *v*

1. 1) описывать, изображать
 to describe a person - описать человека
 to describe one's purposes - изложить свои намерения
 to describe smb.'s views - охарактеризовать чьи-л. взгляды
 to describe smth. as good /to be good/ - описать *или* охарактеризовать что-л. с хорошей стороны
 he was described as being very clever - о нём говорили, что он очень умён
- 2) описывать
 words cannot describe this scene - слова бессильны описать эту сцену
2. описывать; вычерчивать
 to describe a circle - описать окружность
 to describe a triangle - построить треугольник

describe

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

de-scribe [describe describes described describing] *BrE* [di'skraɪb] *AmE*

[di'skraɪb] *verb*

1. to say what sb/sth is like
 - ~ **sb/sth (to/for sb)** Can you describe him to me?
 - The current political situation in Vietnam is described in chapter 8.
 - ~ **sb/sth as sth** The man was described as tall and dark, and aged about 20.
 - Jim was described by his colleagues as 'unusual'.
 - ~ **how, what, etc...** Describe how you did it.
 - ~ **(sb/sth) doing sth** Several people described seeing strange lights in the sky.
2. ~ **sth (formal or technical)** to make a movement which has a particular shape; to form a particular shape
 - The shark described a circle around the shoal of fish.
 - The road describes a long loop around the town.

Derived Word ↑describable

Verb forms

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	describe
	BrE /di'skraɪb/
	NAme /dt'skraɪb/
he / she / it	describes
	BrE /di'skraɪbz/
	NAme /dt'skraɪbz/
past simple, past participle	described
	BrE /di'skraɪbd/
	NAme /dt'skraɪbd/
-ing form	describing
	BrE /di'skraɪbɪŋ/
	NAme /dt'skraɪbɪŋ/

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Latin *describere*, from *de-* 'down' + *scribere* 'write'.

Thesaurus:

describe *verb*

- They described seeing strange lights in the sky.
 - Can you describe him to me?
- report** • **tell** • **portray** • **recount** • **relate** • **depict**

describe/portray/depict sb/sth **as** sth
 describe/report/tell/recount/relate **what/how...**
 describe/report/portray/recount/relate/depict **events/a series of events**
 describe/report/recount/relate your **adventures**

Example Bank:

- He described briefly what happened.
- He goes on to describe very vividly how Caesar was stabbed to death.
- He goes on to describe vividly how Lincoln was assassinated.
- Observers have described the situation in the country as 'serious'.
- The shirt was variously described as 'pink', 'salmon' and 'rose'.
- Their daily lives are described in detail.
- This process is fully described in section three of the book.
- Words cannot describe our feelings at that moment.

describe

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

de-scribe *S2 W1* /di'skraɪb/ *BrE* *AmE* *verb* [transitive]

[Word Family: adjective: describable ≠ indescribable, nondescript, descriptive; verb: describe; noun: description; adverb: descriptively]

[Date: 1400-1500; Language: Latin; Origin: describere, from scribere 'to write']

1. to say what something or someone is like by giving details about them:

- " The police asked her to describe the man.
- " Another approach to the problem is described in Chapter 3.

describe somebody/something as (being/having) something

- " Af ~~ter~~ the operation her condition was described as comfortable.
- " The youth is described as being 18 to 19 years old.

describe how/why/what etc

- " It's difficult to describe how I feel.

describe somebody/something to somebody

- " So describe this new boyfriend to me!

describe doing something

- " He described finding his mother lying on the floor.

2. **describe a circle/an arc etc formal** to make a movement which forms the shape of a circle etc:

- " Her hand described a circle in the air.

...

THESAURUS

- **describe** to talk or write about a person, place, event etc, in order to show what they are like: Could you try and describe the man you saw? | In her book, she describes her journey across the Sahara. | Police described the attack as particularly violent.
- **tell somebody about somebody/something** to describe someone or something to someone. This phrase is more commonly used than **describe** in everyday spoken English: So, tell me about your holiday! | My friends have told me all about you!
- **depict formal** to describe someone or something in a piece of writing: His stories depict life in Trinidad as seen through the eyes of a young boy. | In this new biography she is depicted as a lonely and unhappy woman.
- **portray/represent formal** to describe someone or something in a particular way: College teachers are often represented on television shows as slightly eccentric. | The magazine has been criticized for the way it portrays women. | The treatment has been portrayed as a painless way of curing cancer, which is simply not true. | Police have represented her as a willing participant in the crimes.
- **characterize somebody/something as something formal** to describe someone or something by emphasizing one particular quality or feature about them: He characterized himself as 'an average American'. | The successful schools were characterized as innovative and creative.
- **paint somebody/something as something** to describe someone or something, especially in a way that makes people believe something that is not true: Not all young people are as bad as they're painted in the press. | We won, yet the media is painting it as a victory for our opponents. | The woman was painted as having only a slight grasp of reality.
- **paint a picture** to describe a situation, so that people can get a general idea of what it is like: Can you paint a picture of life in Japan for us? | My uncle's letters generally painted a rosy picture of how things were. | The report painted a bleak picture of the management's failures.

describe

Frequency Pack

12500 **406** MCW

15000 **508** COCA

RANGE: **1k** DESCRIBE 95415

describe 19835

described 34898

describes 12340

indescribable 320

indescribably 60

describing 7495

description 12521

descriptions 4583

descriptive 3363

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

10151 **3243** 12843 *vvi*

5668 **5426** 6972 *vv0*

10 **246258** 11 *jj*

5 **382460** 5 *nn1*

4 **443042** 4 *nnu*