



Writing Application

Recording Scientific Observations

The objective: to describe observations in terms which are precise, measurable, empirical, comparable, and universal.

Observations in science come in six basic categories, seeing, feeling, smelling, tasting, hearing, and measuring. They may be qualitative or quantitative. Some subdivisions of these categories are listed below. Though scientists often reason, predict, and infer, their goal in making observations is to be as accurate as possible. Use the words below to get started.

<u>Sheen</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Crystal Shape</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Texture/ Appearance</u>	
dull	red	cubic	solid	soft	hygroscopic
lustrous	orange	tetragonal	-crystalline	hard	deliquescent
iridescent	yellow	orthorhombic	*needles	rough	viscous
silvery	green	rhombohedral	*plates	smooth	gelatinous
brilliant	blue	monoclinic	*prisms	slippery	cool
	violet	triclinic	-granular	sticky	irritating
	brown	trigonal	-powder	rubbery	burning
	black	hexagonal		waxy	homogenous
	white	octagonal	liquid/gas	fibrous	heterogeneous
	colorless	amorphous	-solution	malleable	scaly
			-colloid	ductile	feathery
			-suspension	elastic	furry
				brittle	leathery
<u>(Light)</u>	<u>Odor</u>	<u>Taste</u>	<u>Sound</u>	<u>Measured Properties</u>	
transparent	aromatic	sweet	high frequency	length	surface tension
translucent	pleasant	sour	low frequency	width	hardness
opaque	agreeable	bitter	pitch	height	solubility
luminous	disagreeable	salty	intensity	volume	half-life
	unpleasant	tasteless	rhythm	mass	
	pungent			density	
	acid			temperature	
	irritating			specific heat	
	burning			melting point	
	suffocating			boiling point	
	odorless			conduction of heat	
	(comparisons)			conduction of electricity	
<u>Movement</u>		<u>Grouping</u>	<u>Sing./Plu./♂/♀/Young/Group</u>	<u>Anatomical Terms</u>	
undulation	skating	solitary	bear/bears/boar/sow/cub/sloth	superior	contralateral
sidewinding	gliding	pair	cat/cats/tom/queen/kitten/clowder	cephalic	proximal
bipedal	flying	family	cow/cattle/bull/cow/calf/herd	cranial	distal
quadrupedal	accelerating	harem	chicken/chickens/rooster/hen/chick/flock	inferior	superficial
locomotion	decelerating	matriarchy	goose/geese/gander/goose/gosling/flock	caudal	deep
streaming	rotating	oligarchy	deer/deer/buck/doe/fawn/herd	oral	frontal
rectilinear	orbiting	arena	dog/dogs/dog/bitch/pup/pack	aboral	transverse
ciliary	spinning	hierarchy	duck/ducks/drake/duck/duckling/flock	anterior	sagittal
flagellar	diffusing	pecking order	elephant/elephants/bull/cow/calf/herd	ventral	oblique
amoeboid	floating	aggregation	fox/foxes/reynard/vixen/pup/skulk	posterior	
running	rising	caste system	goat/goats/billy/nanny/kid/herd	dorsal	
walking	falling		horse/horses/stallion/mare/foal-colt/herd	medial	
crawling	circulating		kangaroo/kangaroos/buck/doe/joey/mob	lateral	
gait			lion/lions/lion/lioness/cub/pride	intermediate	
climbing			moose/moose/bull/cow/calf/herd	ipsilateral	
			pig/pigs-swine/boar/sow/piglet/souder		
			seal/seals/bull/cow/calf/pod		
			whale/whales/bull/cow/calf/pod-gam		