The noveling has begun, and you've been writing like a mad person. If your word count is looking pathetic, we have a solution. The number one way to get your word count soaring and give your readers descriptions they'll never forget is by adding concrete and sensory details to your novel.

Concrete details are those details in your novel that come right out of your five senses:

1. Taste
2. Touch
3. Smell
4. Sight
5. Hearing

“There was a dog in the alley.” = 7 words

“There was a wet, one-eyed beagle covered in black mud, smelling like the inside of a sewage drainpipe in the alley next to the deserted bus station.” = 27 words

Below, we've listed a few things that could use some spicing up in the detail department. We've also provided you with some cool Word Banks with very impressive synonyms. In the spaces provided, answer the questions for each of the following items, using your senses and our Word Banks to make your descriptions come alive on the page.

A thunderstorm

What does it feel like?
What does it smell like?

What do the clouds look like? What does the rain gathering in the streets look like?

What does it sound like?

Word Bank for “Nice”
delightful, kind, likable, pleasant, charming, agreeable, gratifying, lovely, friendly, appealing, gracious, polite, amiable, congenial, affable, benign, comely, suitable, respectable, proper
A rock concert

What does it feel like?

What does it smell like?

What do you see?

Word Bank for “Interesting”
captivating, compelling, entertaining, stimulating, intriguing, fascinating, absorbing, engaging, enchanting, challenging, attractive, gripping, riveting, entralling, exhilarating, mesmerizing, noteworthy, striking, significant
An abandoned house

How does it make you feel?

What does it smell like?
What do you see inside?

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

What do you hear?

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Bonus Exercise: The NaNoWriMo Description Challenge

The following things are a little more difficult to describe, but not impossible. If you can describe the following using all your senses, you will have no problem reaching your word count this November.

A blank white wall

Taste:

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Word Bank for “Bad”

poor,
unsatisfactory,
ghastly,
dreadful,
terrible,
appalling,
horrific, awful,
unacceptable,
disappointing,
substandard,
atrocious,
abominable,
loathsome,
offensive,
shoddy, dire,
disastrous,
grave, ominous
Touch:

Smell:

Sight:

Sound:

Word Bank for “Good”

excellent, superior, outstanding, tremendous, fantastic, terrific, exemplary, desirable, beneficial, advantageous, favorable, decent, superlative, proficient, marvelous, useful, exceptional, incredible, altruistic, angelic
Embarrassment

Taste:

Touch:

Smell:

Word Bank for “Evil”
deplorable, malevolent, wicked, immoral, depraved, corrupt, degenerate, diabolical, heinous, sinister, sinful, reprobate, monstrous, fiendish, infernal, demonic, malicious, hateful, iniquitous, nefarious
Sight:

Sound:

Happiness

Taste:

Touch:

Word Bank for “Fun”
amusing, enjoyable, pleasurable, festive, recreational, exciting, playful, merry, entertaining, appealing, mirthful, jovial, cheerful, celebratory, jollity, convivial, gay, jocular, animated, gleeful
Smell:

Sight:

Sound:

Word Bank for “Awesome”
breathtaking, amazing, remarkable, extraordinary, outstanding, incredible, magnificent, wonderful, superb, fantastic, grand, astonishing, majestic, notable, phenomenal, stupendous, spectacular, unparalleled, supreme, striking
The universe!

Taste:

Touch:

Smell:

Sight:

Word Bank for “Stupid”

unintelligent, vacuous, inane, foolish, dimwitted, imbecilic, moronic, senseless, dense, ignorant, idiotic, doltish, simpleminded, nescient, obtuse, imperceptive, absurd, inept, preposterous
Sound:


Does your brain hurt? We thought it might. Try and describe that!

**Your hurting brain**

Taste:


Touch:
Stupendous job! If you ever feel like your word count is waning, be sure to use your senses and add a lot of concrete and sensory details.