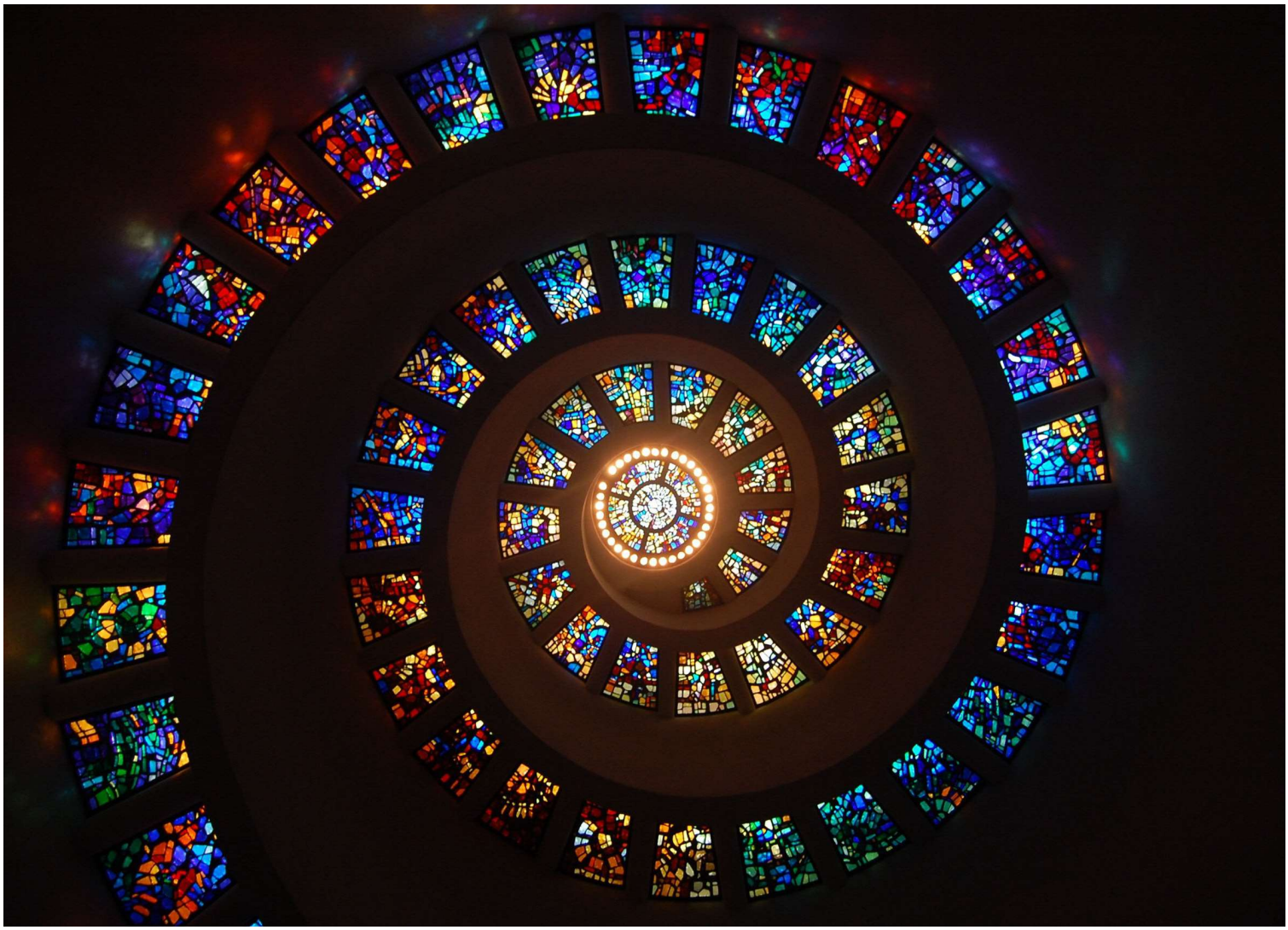
Planning your description
Creating a structure



Planning a description

We have looked at different ways to structure descriptions:

zoom in and out

shift the perspective

detail the objects

create a character

describe physical appearance, emotions and actions

The Red Tram

Identify the changes in the description.

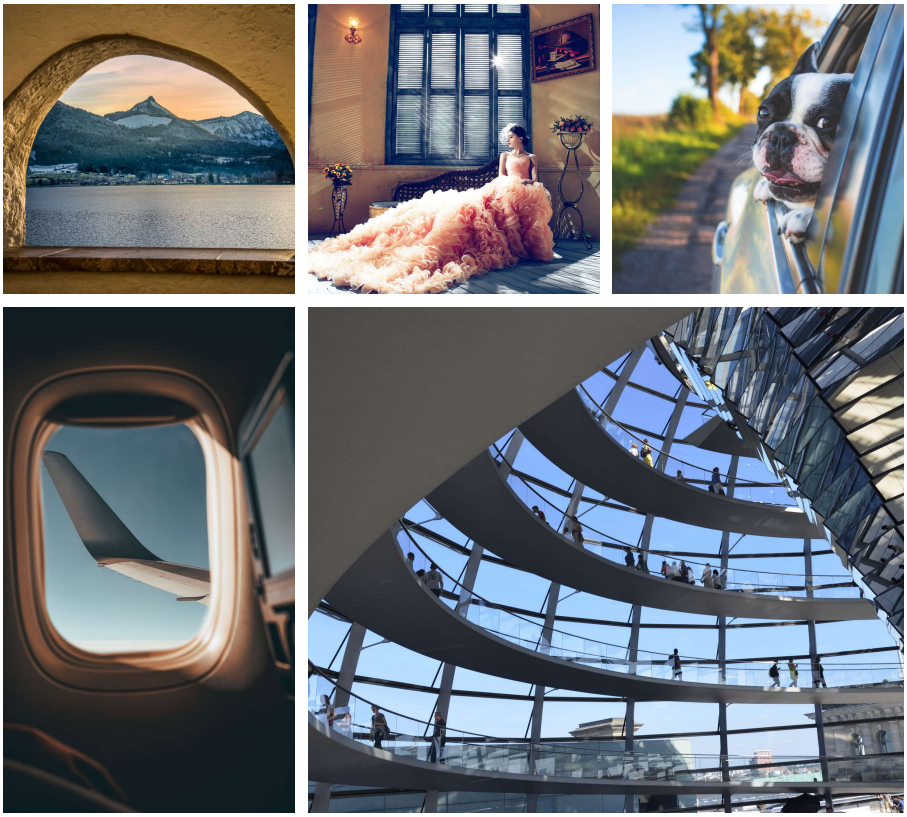
There are many trams in Lisbon but only one is red. The city is teaming with the shiny yellow commuter trams working away like gliding beetles, but the red tram is different.

The woman looked ordinary and unmistakably local in her chic white jeans and sunglasses. She

strolled purposefully clutching the green bag lightly by its strap.

She appeared to be crossing the road unhurriedly, as if aiming for the far corner of the square on autopilot. Suddenly as the tram signalled it's readiness with a sharp ding ding she made broke into a run and leapt through the closing doors breathlessly.

The driver remonstrated with her in Portuguese but she shrugged him off. While the woman slid down in her seat glimpsing the window nervously, the red tram glided away on it's tourist trail.



Plan a possible structure for describing one of these images.

Answers

Zoom in on an object: There are many trams in Lisbon but only one is red. The city is teaming with the shiny yellow commuter trams working away like gliding beetles, but the red tram is different.

Describe a character: The woman looked ordinary and unmistakably local in her chic white jeans and sunglasses. She strolled purposefully clutching the green bag lightly by its strap.

Connect object and character: She appeared to be crossing the road unhurriedly, as if aiming for the far corner of the square on autopilot. Suddenly as the tram signalled it's readiness with a sharp ding ding she made broke into a run and leapt through the closing doors breathlessly.

Zoom out: The driver remonstrated with her in Portuguese but she shrugged him off. While the woman slid down in her seat glimpsing the window nervously, the red tram glided away on it's tourist trail.

Lesson by Joanne Taylor. Image credits below:

Credits:

Created with images by Wokandapix - "plan objective strategy" · msandersmusic - "stained glass spiral circle" · franky1st - "tram train travel" · Franz26 - "arch window lake" · maya_7966 - "bride woman model" · Pexels - "dog pet car window" · Javaistan - "airplane travel adventure" · Thibaud - "building architecture modern" · franky1st - "tram train travel"

Bespoke
English
Education