

Exercise 1:

Find your style strength and weakness. Pick two games: one game with an item description style that you feel is close to your strongest prose style as a writer and one that is far from it. Now, try and write 10 item descriptions for both of those genres. (Don't write specifically for those games.)

	Item Name	2D Pixel Graphic Farming Sim (menu/codex description)	Point-Click Horror (flavour text)
1	An apple	Sweet and juicy. Grows on Apple trees during autumn	It is partially moulded
2	A tree	Thinking this huge thing sprouts from a tiny seed fills you with awe.	The branches are helplessly contorting around the trunk
3	A towel	The next best thing for rain after an umbrella. You need one to join the spa	Small patches of unknown liquid have hardened across its surface
4	A backpack	A large leather backpack. Carrying it with you adds 8 slots to your inventory.	It is quite heavy. Somebody must have dropped it in a rush
5	Shoelaces	Can be arranged in many different patterns. A great present for a creative person.	Colourful and useless
6	A notepad	A plain notebook. You can use it to keep track of things to do.	Its previous owner barely managed to get a few lines in
7	A two-way radio	The grown-up Walkie-Talkie. Give it to someone special to stay in contact!	The static coming from the other side is more comforting than any other sound
8	A compass	Helps you remember which way is east without looking at the sun	The glass is broken and the needle is gone
9	A shovel	Farming 101. Used it to find treasure and bury seeds. Can be upgraded.	As good a way as any to bash somebody's skull in
10	An umbrella	The brightest way to not get soaked, as well as a fashion statement.	A remnant of a time when the scariest thing you would face outdoors was the rain

Exercise 2:

Find your item weak points. For example, maybe you know a lot about cars but less about vegetables, or vice-versa. Try writing 10 item descriptions for objects you don't already know a lot about. Research these items and pick up the vocabulary and jargon associated with them.

Horse Breeds	Description
1 Arabian	Although they are fairly small horses, Arabians are at the top of their game in an endurance competition.
2 Appaloosa	Suitable for a wide range of activities, Appaloosa horses are easily recognised for their spotted mane and easy temperament.
3 Morgan	One of the earliest breeds to be developed in the United States. Their small size makes them very agile but their speed is also limited.
4 Paint Horse	Stocky and versatile, the Paint Horse shares a common ancestry with the American Quarter Horse and the Thoroughbred and is utilized in a wide range of recreational activities.
5 Tennessee Walker	First bred in the late 18th century as riding horses on plantations in the United States, they have been used particularly for pleasure riding.
6 Warmblood	A warmblood is part of a middle-weight horse breed that hails mostly from Europe. They are bred primarily for Equestrian sports.
7 Thoroughbred	Thoroughbreds can be recognized by their athletic physique and thin legs. They are medium to large, standing up to 170cm at the withers. They are excellent in all kinds of sprint races.
8 Quarter Horse	The most widespread breed in North America, Quarter Horses, are utilised for racing and jumping. They are most frequently used for leisure riding and sprint racing.
9 Andalusian	A highly intelligent breed, Andalusians are agile and elegant. Hailing from Spain, their calm nature makes them valuable both in riding schools and many equestrian events.
10 French Trotter	A French breed, The French Trotter was bred in the nineteenth century, specifically for racing. They are small to medium in size, often measuring 154 to 167 cm at the withers.

**Exercise 3:**

Find an online catalogue (for clothes, office supplies, fantasy swords, cars, anything, so long as it's all the same kind of object, and contains pictures). Now, pick 10-20 items, pick a target game genre, and time how long it takes you to write descriptions of these items. The goal isn't to rush, but to understand how long it takes you to come up with interesting and different descriptions for similar things. This will help grow your creativity under pressure too.

Cataloging Items from: [https://www.richters.com/Web\\_store/web\\_store.cgi?show=list&prodclass=Dried\\_Herbs&cart\\_id=7600524.1524165](https://www.richters.com/Web_store/web_store.cgi?show=list&prodclass=Dried_Herbs&cart_id=7600524.1524165)

Item	Description for usage in smoothies/potions in a cute school-based RPG like Persona
1 Burdock	Easy to grow and widely used for medicinal purposes. Its barbed fruits are nature's velcro!
2 Damiana	The lemony-scented dried leaves make a good base for a relaxing tea.
3 Ginger	Both roots and dried leaves are used in cooking. A great home remedy for a variety of digestive troubles
4 Flax	Unless you plan to make your own linen, the seeds are what you are looking for here. When ground, they are a popular source of proteins in smoothies.
5 Celandine	Known for its ability to thrive in almost any environment, celandine has been known and used since ancient times for its recognised medical properties.
6 Licorice	Bitter and sweet at the same time, licorice has been a confusing flavour throughout history. Love it or hate it, it is mostly used as a sweetener and to boost stamina
7 Lemongrass	These long green leaves are all about flavour. Don't be afraid to use them liberally!
8 Rosemary	Best friend with potatoes of all shapes and kinds. The sticky aromatic evergreen leaves are believed to help with memory
9 Sesame	A true workhorse. Takes a while to grow but seeds can be used for almost anything. Especially flavourful.
11 Spirulina	A popular alga, spirulina is mostly used as a protein source in smoothies. Increases endurance
13 Jasmine	Needs sunlight and careful grooming to thrive, but its complex and aromatic scent will improve anything it is added to.
14 Maca	South-American cousin to radishes and turnips. Its ground powder boosts memory and endurance.
15 Valerian	One of the most popular sedatives. Use it when you need to calm down!