# Semantically-Prompted Language Models Improve Visual Descriptions

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#### Abstract

Language-vision models like CLIP have made significant strides in vision tasks, such as zeroshot image classification (ZSIC). However, generating specific and expressive visual descriptions remains challenging; descriptions produced by current methods are often ambiguous and lacking in granularity. To tackle these issues, we propose V-GLOSS: Visual Glosses, a novel method built upon two key ideas. The first is Semantic Prompting, which conditions a language model on structured semantic knowledge. The second is a new contrastive algorithm that elicits fine-grained distinctions between similar concepts. With both ideas, we demonstrate that V-GLOSS improves visual descriptions and achieves strong results in the zero-shot setting on general and fine-grained image-classification datasets, including ImageNet, STL-10, FGVC Aircraft, and Flowers 102. Moreover, these descriptive capabilities contribute to enhancing image-generation performance. Finally, we introduce a qualitytested silver dataset with descriptions generated with V-GLOSS for all ImageNet classes.

## 1 Introduction

Language-vision models (Radford et al., 2021; Jia et al., 2021) have made significant progress in zeroshot vision tasks. However, in agreement with Betker et al. (2023), we hypothesize that their accuracy is limited by a lack of visual concept descriptions that are both expressive and specific, that is, glosses that detail the unique visual characteristics of a concept. In this work, we investigate this hypothesis by creating and testing a new method for producing visual descriptions with pre-trained language models and semantic knowledge bases.

High-quality visual descriptions are crucial in tasks such as zero-shot image classification and text-based image retrieval. Improved descriptions facilitate the creation of more useful representations. These are essential in producing robust and

Class / Concept	WordNet Gloss	V-GLOSS (Ours)
CORKSCREW	A bottle opener that pulls corks.	A <b>tool</b> with a <b>spiral blade</b> that is used to remove corks from bottles.
BRAMBLING	Eurasian finch.	A <b>small brown</b> bird with a <b>black head</b> and a <b>white patch</b> on its chest.
BROCCOLI	Branched green undeveloped flower heads.	A green vegetable with a <b>thick stalk</b> and <b>florets</b> that grow in a <b>dense</b> head.

Table 1: A qualitative comparison between baseline glosses and V-GLOSS descriptions for some ImageNet classes. Our method describes the *visual characteristics* of a class, instead of what it *does* or *is*. Many more examples are shown in Table 6.

adaptable methods capable of understanding novel and specific visual attributes without re-training.

Existing approaches to generating visual descriptions, such as Template Ensembling (Radford et al., 2021) and CuPL (Pratt et al., 2022), involve directly plugging class labels into fixed templates (e.g., *A photo of X*), and prompting large language models such as InstructGPT (Ouyang et al., 2022) to generate descriptions based on class labels (e.g., *What does X look like?*), respectively. These methods suffer from two main issues: class granularity and label ambiguity. Class granularity refers to the difficulty in distinguishing between visually similar classes, such as ALLIGATOR and CROCODILE. Label ambiguity is caused by using polysemous words as labels for distinct concepts. For example, CRANE can refer to either a bird or a construction



(b) V-GLOSS for ZSCIG: generating a DOG image

(c) V-GLOSS for ZSIC: classifying a test image

Figure 1: For the DOG class, we depict (a) V-GLOSS's architecture (Section 4.2.1), along with adaptations: (b) zero-shot image classification (ZSIC) (Section 5.4.1) and (c) zero-shot class-conditional image generation (ZSCIG) (Section 5.4.1)

machine. These issues limit the performance of existing models (Radford et al., 2021).

To address these challenges, we introduce V-GLOSS, a novel method that leverages language models (LMs) and semantic knowledge bases (SKBs) to generate improved visual descriptions – Visual **Gloss**es. Table 1 shows some examples. By combining structured semantic information from SKBs such as WordNet (Miller, 1998), and BabelNet (Navigli and Ponzetto, 2012), with a contrastive algorithm to finely distinguish similar classes, V-GLOSS is designed to mitigate the dual issues of granularity and ambiguity.

Our results demonstrate the effectiveness of V-GLOSS in improving the performance of ZSIC systems. We achieve strong improvements compared to prior work on benchmark datasets such as ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009) (+1.8%), FGVC Aircraft (Maji et al., 2013) (+2.6%), and Flowers 102 (Nilsback and Zisserman, 2008) (+1.6%) in the zero-shot setting. Additionally, we introduce V-GLOSS Silver, a silver dataset constructed by V-GLOSS, which consists of a visual description for each ImageNet class. We show that V-GLOSS Silver is useful for zero-shot language-vision tasks such as ZSIC and ZSCIG, comparing favorably to WordNet glosses.

## 2 Tasks

Our main task is to generate a description for a given class or concept. For example, if an image classification dataset has the class DOG, we aim to produce a description such as "*A dog is a furry*,

*four-legged canine...*" We consider such a description to be a specific kind of gloss.

We use two downstream tasks to compare methods of generating class descriptions: zero-shot image classification (ZSIC), and zero-shot classconditional image generation (ZSCIG). In ZSIC, the goal is to classify an image based on a set of classes, without having seen any labeled images belonging to those classes. The set of classes depends on the dataset. For example, given an image depicting a dog, we aim to predict the class DOG. In ZSCIG, the goal is to generate an image that corresponds to a specific class, again without having seen any labeled examples. For example, given a class DOG, we aim to generate an image of a dog.

In short, ZSIC is the task of classifying a given image, while ZSCIG is the task of generating an image given a class. Both involve classes and images. Visual descriptions of classes provide useful information which can facilitate both tasks by making it easier to either recognize or generate images of each class. Therefore, we aim to improve performance on both ZSIC and ZSCIG by developing a novel method to improve the generation of such descriptions.

#### **3 Related Work**

Language Models The advent of transformerbased language models has revolutionized many natural language processing tasks (Radford et al., 2018; Devlin et al., 2018; Radford et al., 2019; Brown et al., 2020; Black et al., 2022; Ouyang et al., 2022). As these models are scaled up by their number of parameters and quantity of training data, they exhibit emergent abilities such as fewshot and zero-shot learning (Wei et al., 2022).

Language-Vision Models Significant strides have been made in the field of language-vision models such as CLIP (Radford et al., 2021) and ALIGN (Jia et al., 2021). These models apply contrastive pre-training approaches on large image-text datasets, leading to improved representation learning for both text and images and enhanced performance on several multi-modal tasks (Mokady et al., 2021; Song et al., 2022). Further advancements have been achieved by scaling up pre-training and incorporating auxiliary training objectives (Pham et al., 2021; Yu et al., 2022).

**Producing Descriptions & Prompting** The generation of descriptions and prompting has been explored in various studies. Radford et al. (2021) introduced the template ensembling (TE) method, which uses a custom set of class labels and a fixed set of templates. Each label is inserted into these templates, and the completed templates for each class are aggregated into a single representation of the class. The CuPL method (Pratt et al., 2022) utilizes InstructGPT (Brown et al., 2020; Ouyang et al., 2022) to generate descriptions for ImageNet classes. Both TE and CuPL can be used for zeroshot image classification. Hao et al. (2022) finetuned GPT models (Radford et al., 2018, 2019) to rephrase image-generation prompts, resulting in improved images. (Zhou et al., 2022) learned soft prompts that improve performance, but are intractable to humans. In this work, we prompt language models with semantic knowledge to generate visual descriptions.

## 4 Method

We begin by describing how we map classes to concepts in a semantic knowledge base (SKB), to leverage the concept-specific information the SKB contains. We then introduce our novel method V-GLOSS, which has two variants, *normal* and *contrastive*. We conclude by describing the construction of V-GLOSS Silver, a set of class descriptions produced using V-GLOSS.

A photo of a **platypus** 

#### (a) CLIP (Radford et al., 2021)

What does a platypus look like?

A platypus looks like a beaver with a duck's bill

#### (b) CuPL (Pratt et al., 2022)

Concept name: eagle Hypernyms: bird or prey Hyponyms: bald eagle, eaglet, golden eagle, harpy Gloss: any of various large keen-sighted diurnal birds of prey noted for their broad wings and strong... Unique and expressive visual description: Eagles are large birds of prey with dark brown bodies and wings... Concept name: platvpus Hypernyms: duckbill, duckbilled platypus, ... Hyponyms: egg-laying mammal Gloss: small densely furred aquatic monotreme of Australia and Tasmania having a broad bill... Unique and expressive visual description: Platypuses are water-dwelling mammals that have broad duck-like bills and hind legs with a foot web that has an intricate web of keratinised spongy hairs

(c) V-GLOSS (Ours)

Figure 2: Class descriptions for PLATYPUS produced by one template-based method (a) and two that use LMs (b and c). Input prompts, output descriptions, and **plugged values** are shown.

#### 4.1 Mapping Classes to Synsets

The ImageNet classes are already mapped to Word-Net synsets by the dataset's creators. For the other datasets, we employ a heuristic that starts by mapping each class to the most frequent sense of the class label, as determined by WordNet<sup>1</sup>. For CIFAR-10 and STL-10, this heuristic is sufficient. For CIFAR-100, we manually re-map 18 classes. For instance, we needed to re-map RAY from *light* to sea creature, as the light sense is most frequent, but the RAY in the dataset refers to the sea creature. We show mis-mapped CIFAR-100 classes in Table 7 of the appendix. We fall back to our manuallyproduced definitions if no suitable synset is found in WordNet or BabelNet. This happens 8 times for all 1,322 classes across all datasets, with all occurrences coming from FGVC Aircraft.

#### 4.2 V-GLOSS

We discuss the two variants of V-GLOSS below, *normal* and *contrastive*. In both, for each class, we produce multiple descriptions resulting in an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://www.nltk.org/



Figure 3: A sample of an SKB hypernym hierarchy. For *contrastive* prompting, we only distinguish classes that are semantically similar to the target class, like ALLIGATOR to CROCODILE.

ensemble. Ultimately, to achieve our best results with V-GLOSS (*Normal + Contrastive*) in Table 5, we combine both normal and contrastive, by concatenating the descriptions from each sub-method. Unless otherwise stated, *V-GLOSS* refers to this hybrid method.

#### 4.2.1 Normal V-GLOSS

We generate normal descriptions via in-context learning with an LM, beginning by providing the LM with a description of the task to be performed, followed by multiple input-output examples. The examples are fixed, involving the concepts EAGLE, BAT (animal), BAT (baseball), and TELEVISION. We selected these to expose the model to ambiguous class labels (bat), a natural object (eagle), and an artificial object (television). For each class, we obtain the hypernyms, hyponyms, usage examples, synonyms, and gloss of the sense to which the class is mapped, and provide this to the LM. Figure 2c shows a session with the LM, beginning with the example of *eagle*, with output generated for the class platypus. Table 1 compares our descriptions to baseline glosses.

## 4.2.2 Contrastive V-GLOSS

During development, we observed that many errors were caused by false positives involving visually similar classes. For example, the classes CROCODILE for ALLIGATOR refer to similarlooking animals, and are often confused with one another. Moreover, ImageNet contains 120 distinct

Class / Concept	Normal	Contrastive
Alligator	A large reptile with a long snout, a broad head, and a long tail.	A large, dark-colored reptile with a rounded snout, found in freshwater.
CROCODILE	A reptile with a broad, flat snout, a long tail, and a long, pointed snout.	A grayish-green reptile with a v-shaped snout, found in brackish or saltwater.

Table 2: Two similar classes with **key differences** between their *normal* and *contrastive* descriptions.

dog species, and the fine-grained datasets contain only airplanes (FGVC Aircraft) or flowers (Flowers 102). The contrastive variant of V-GLOSS is designed to address these issues by using semantic similarity between classes as a heuristic to estimate visual similarity. For each class, we search for other classes that are semantically similar, and if any are found, we add a negative instruction to the LM prompt, e.g. we generate a description for an ALLIGATOR *but not* a CROCODILE, using the same prompt structure as for normal V-GLOSS.

We create a similarity matrix M as follows:

$$M_{i,j} = Sim(S[i], S[j]) \tag{1}$$

 $Sim(s_1, s_2)$  is the Wu-Palmer path-similarity function (Wu and Palmer, 1994) comparing synsets  $s_1$  and  $s_2$ ; this similarity function uses the path between two concepts in the WordNet tree (Figure 3) to measure semantic relatedness. S is the set of all classes in a dataset,  $\mathcal{D}$ , and i and j are indices ranging from 1 to |S|. Concisely, Equation 1 defines a similarity matrix containing similarity scores between all classes in a dataset. M is one of the inputs to our contrastive V-GLOSS variant, shown in Algorithm 1.

In Algorithm 1,  $\lambda$  is a threshold for minimum similarity. We only generate contrastive descriptions when classes have a similarity that exceeds or is equal to  $\lambda$ . N indicates the maximum number of classes to generate contrastive descriptions for. To select N, we run a hyperparameter search (shown in Figure 4). k is the number of distinct descriptions to generate for a class pair.  $LM_c$  takes in the *target* class, a neighbor class, and k, then prompts the LM to generate k descriptions that distinguish



Figure 4: V-GLOSS Accuracy vs N, with the number of *normal* fixed at 50.

the *target* and neighbor classes. In summary, for each class, Algorithm 1 identifies the classes most similar to it, excluding itself, and generates descriptions that distinguish them. Table 2 compares the normal and contrastive descriptions for ALLI-GATOR and CROCODILE; note that distinguishing features of the two classes are included in the LM's output. Table 3 shows examples of classes with high false positive rates, and the classes they are contrasted with.

**Algorithm 1** Generate *Contrastive* Descriptions: We generate contrastive descriptions to help distinguish the most similar classes.

**Require:** M: Equation 1 result **Require:**  $\lambda$ , N, k: Hyperparameters **Require:** S: All classes in dataset,  $\mathcal{D}$ **Require:**  $LM_c$ : LM prompted contrastively 1:  $G \leftarrow \text{empty } |S|$ -list for class descriptions 2: for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to |S| - 1 do 3:  $target \leftarrow S[i]$  $S^* \leftarrow \text{top } N \text{ classes} : \lambda \leq M_{i,*} \leq 1$ 4: for  $s^*$  in  $S^*$  do 5: samples  $\leftarrow LM_c(target, s^*, k)$ 6: 7: G[i].insert(samples)8: return G

# 5 Evaluation

In this section, we present our evaluation of V-GLOSS, alongside comparable methods. We describe our datasets, evaluation metrics, baselines, previous methods, and experiments. To ensure robustness, we report the mean over five random seeds in Tables 4 and 5.

Class	False Positives	Contrastives
African Elephant	Tusker (44), Asian Elephant (6)	Tusker, Asian Elephant
NOTEBOOK	Laptop (22), Desktop (10), Space bar (2)	Laptop, Desktop, <mark>Space bar</mark>

Table 3: False positives and their counts vs. classes selected by the contrastive algorithm (see Equation 1 and Algorithm 1). Hits and misses are shown.

#### 5.1 Datasets

We evaluate our method on the test splits of six widely used benchmark datasets, taking note to consider both general and fine-grained datasets.

**ImageNet** (Deng et al., 2009) consists of 50,000 images equally distributed across 1,000 classes, and serves as our primary benchmark.

**CIFAR-10** and **CIFAR-100** (Krizhevsky et al., 2009) both comprise 10,000 test samples across 10 and 100 classes, respectively.

**STL-10** (Coates et al., 2011) comprises 100,000 test samples designed for unsupervised learning.

**FGVC Aircraft** (Maji et al., 2013) contains 3,333 images across 100 aircraft model variants, with  $\sim$ 33 images per variant.

**Flowers 102** (Nilsback and Zisserman, 2008) features 102 flower categories common in the UK, with 40 to 258 images per category.

For CIFAR-10, CIFAR-100, STL-10, FGVC Aircraft, and Flowers 102, which are not pre-mapped to WordNet, we employ the two-step process detailed in Section 4.1 to map each class to a synset.

Experiment 1 (Section 5.4) involves ImageNet alone and covers both the ZSCIG and ZSIC tasks. In contrast, Experiment 2 (Section 5.5), our main experiment, tests the impact of various class description methods on the ZSIC task and uses all datasets. In Experiment 2, we allow methods to use ensembles of descriptions of each class, while in Experiment 1, we experiment with only a single description.

We selected these datasets to evaluate the following properties of V-GLOSS:

1. Performance on common benchmark datasets with varying numbers of classes. Each dataset has its own set of classes, ranging

from ImageNet with 1,000 classes, to CIFAR-100 with 100 classes, to CIFAR-10 and STL-10, each with 10 classes.

2. **Proficiency in fine-grained conceptual distinctions.** Although some datasets (ImageNet and CIFAR) cover diverse domains, we importantly consider fine-grained datasets like FGVC Aircraft and Flowers 102. This enables testing our method's ability to distinguish very similar classes (e.g., distinguishing between closely related species or types).

## 5.2 Evaluation Metrics

**Top-1 Accuracy** In ZSIC, this metric is the frequency with which the model's top prediction for an image matches the gold label.

**Fréchet Inception Distance (FID)** For ZSCIG, FID (Heusel et al., 2017) quantifies the divergence between ground truth and generated images, with lower scores signifying a better ability to produce images similar to the ground truth.

**Inception Score** Also for ZSCIG, the inception score (Salimans et al., 2016) uses an Inception model's (Szegedy et al., 2015) output probability distribution to assess the diversity and realism of generated images, with higher scores indicating more diverse and convincing images. Unlike the above metrics, this does not require ground-truth images for comparison.

## 5.3 Baseline & Previous Methods

In this section, we describe the methods to which we compare V-GLOSS. For methods that produce ensembles of class descriptions (i.e. multiple descriptions per class), a single representation of the class is obtained by averaging individual representations for each description.

First, the **1-Template baseline** inserts a class label into a *single* specific template. For example, given the class DOG, the baseline produces "*A photo of a dog.*"

The next approach we consider is **Template Ensembling** (Radford et al., 2021), which generates an ensemble of descriptions for a class by inserting the class label into each of a set of 80 templates. For example, some descriptions for DOG are: "*A photo of a dog.*", "*A blurry photo of a dog.*", and "*An origami dog.*" This method uses a modified list of class labels<sup>2</sup> designed to reduce ambiguity.

**CuPL** (Pratt et al., 2022) also generates an ensemble of descriptions for each class. The descriptions are generated by prompting a LLM, Instruct-GPT (Ouyang et al., 2022), with questions such as: "What does a dog look like?" and "Describe an image of a dog from the internet." CuPL uses the same class labels as Template Ensembling.

## 5.4 Experiment 1: V-GLOSS Silver

This experiment evaluates V-GLOSS's ability to generate a *single* description for each class, without relying on ensembling. We then evaluate the V-GLOSS description of each class against its Word-Net gloss.

To construct this set of class descriptions, which we view as a silver dataset of such descriptions, we generate a single, normal description for each ImageNet class via greedy decoding. We generate only normal descriptions because they outperform contrastive ones when only a single description is used. We call the resulting dataset *V-GLOSS Silver*.

We extrinsically evaluate V-GLOSS Silver by using it for the ZSIC and ZSCIG tasks, and comparing the results to those achieved using the 1-Template baseline, and WordNet glosses. We do not compare V-GLOSS Silver to CuPL or other previous methods which may produce more than one gloss for each class.

# 5.4.1 Technical Details

**ZSIC** We employ CLIP (Radford et al., 2021), which comprises an image encoder and a text encoder, as the ZSIC backbone model. Our procedure consists of three steps: First, we use the CLIP text encoder to create an aggregate representation for each class based on its description(s). Then, at test time, we employ the CLIP image encoder to generate a representation of the input image. Finally, we predict the class which maximizes the cosine similarity between the representation of its description(s), and the image representation (see Figure 1c). We evaluate the predictions using top-1 accuracy.

**ZSCIG** For ZSCIG (see Figure 1b), we condition Stable Diffusion (Rombach et al., 2022) on each class description before generating an image. We use a guidance scale of 7.5 and run 50 diffusion

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://github.com/anishathalye/ imagenet-simple-labels

	ZSIC	ZSCIG	r
	Accuracy ↑	Inception ↑	$FID\downarrow$
Baseline (1-Template)	71.0	99.7	25.7
WordNet Glosses	44.7	58.5	30.0
V-GLOSS Silver	72.3	109.6	20.0

Table 4: Extrinsic evaluation on the tasks of ZSIC and ZSCIG.  $\downarrow$  means that lower is better.

steps. We evaluate the generated images using Inception and FID scores.

## 5.4.2 Results

The results of Experiment 1 are shown in Table 4. Based on our extrinsic evaluation on the ZSIC and ZSCIG tasks, *V-GLOSS Silver* descriptions yield better performance compared to baseline and Word-Net Glosses. On ZSIC, we improve accuracy by 1.3%; on ZSCIG, we improve Inception and FID scores by 9.9 and 5.7, respectively. This demonstrates the effectiveness and utility of V-GLOSS: our visual descriptions yield better results on ZSIC and ZSCIG.

#### 5.4.3 Analysis

V-GLOSS Silver descriptions are considerably more detailed, more expressive, and better grounded than their WordNet counterparts (see Figure 1). Specifically, we observe that V-GLOSS descriptions make greater use of descriptive words and phrases, e.g. *spiral, brown, green, thick, small*, etc.

#### 5.5 Experiment 2: ZSIC

Our second experiment assesses the effectiveness of V-GLOSS descriptions in facilitating ZSIC. The details for the ZSIC pipeline are largely similar to those described in Experiment 1 (Section 5.4), except that we generate an ensemble of descriptions per class, as opposed to only one description. We also experiment with two image encoder variants: ViT (Dosovitskiy et al., 2020) and RN50 (He et al., 2016). For all baselines and methods (Section 5.3, Section 4.2.1), we follow the same evaluation procedure after generating class descriptions.

#### 5.5.1 Technical Details

We generate class descriptions using the 6.1Bparameter Cohere LM<sup>3</sup>. We choose Cohere over alternatives due to its extensive free plan, reducing the cost of our experiments. Cohere has comparable performance to the similarly-sized InstructGPT (Brown et al., 2020; Ouyang et al., 2022) variant, as demonstrated by Liang et al. (2022) across various benchmarks. Therefore, we do not gain any advantage by using Cohere instead of InstructGPT.

When generating class descriptions with normal V-GLOSS, we use a temperature of 2.5 to produce an ensemble of 50 descriptions per class. When generating contrastively, we use a temperature of 1.5 to generate an ensemble of 20 descriptions per class. Like Pratt et al. (2022), we observe that performance saturates around 50 descriptions for normal V-GLOSS, but we also observe saturation at around 20 descriptions for contrastive V-GLOSS. Based on tuning on development data, we set N = 5,  $\lambda = 0.5$ , and k = 4 (see Algorithm 1). In total, we obtain 70 class descriptions. During generation, we set the maximum number of tokens to 35, but also terminate generation when the *boundary parameter* or *newline* token is reached.

### 5.5.2 Results

The results from Experiment 2, as shown in Table 5, primarily underscore the significant efficiency and accuracy gains of V-GLOSS (*Normal + Contrastive*) over CuPL.

Key findings include: (1) V-GLOSS demonstrates an average accuracy improvement of 4.4% over the baseline (3.3% for ViT and 5.6% for RN50). (2) Compared to Template Ensembling, V-GLOSS shows an average improvement of 2.2%. (3) Against the variant: V-GLOSS (*Normal*-Only), V-GLOSS (*Normal* + *Contrastive*) improves accuracy by an average of 1.8%.

The standout improvements, however, show in the comparison between CuPL and V-GLOSS. Despite having 28.7 times fewer LM parameters than CuPL (6.1B vs. CuPL's 175B), V-GLOSS exhibits notable performance improvements, increasing by an average of 1.8% on ImageNet, 2.6% on FGVC Aircraft, 1.6% on Flowers 102, and 1.4% across all datasets. The fine-grained datasets (FGVC Aircraft and Flowers 102) show an average improvement of 2.1%, compared to 0.9% on the general datasets (ImageNet, CIFAR-10, and CIFAR-100), a nod to the effectiveness of our contrastive algorithm. For a detailed discussion on the implications of our findings, see Section 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>https://docs.cohere.com/docs/models

Mathad	Madal	Accuracy (%) on Datasets				# LM		
Welliou	Model	ImageNet	CIFAR 100	CIFAR 10	STL 10	FGVC Aircraft	Flowers 102	Parameters
1-Template Baseline	ViT RN50	72.4 68.7	77.3 57.7	95.2 81.0	99.5 98.4	31.7 27.4	77.6 71.6	0
Template Ensembling	ViT RN50	76.2 73.2	77.9 61.3	96.2 86.8	99.4 98.3	32.9 29.7	78.5 74.3	0
CuPL	ViT	76.7	78.6	95.8	-	36.1	79.7	175B
V-GLOSS (Normal-Only)	ViT RN50	77.3 73.3	77.5 63.5	95.6 86.8	99.4 98.3	33.2 30.8	79.2 75.1	6.1B
V-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive)	ViT RN50	<b>78.5</b> 74.5	78.2 64.6	<b>97.0</b> 87.8	<b>99.6</b> 98.8	<b>38.7</b> 35.2	<b>81.3</b> 77.3	6.1B

Table 5: Top-1 accuracy on ZSIC. <u>ViT</u>-L14-336 and <u>RN50</u>x64 are Transformer- and ResNet-based CLIP variants. See Table 8 for more model variants.

### 5.5.3 Analysis

In Section 1, we pointed out several problems in previous methods. Here, we carefully analyze how V-GLOSS addresses these issues.

Label Ambiguity: Without adequate context, text models may fail to grasp the intended meaning of a polysemous word. *Crane* is a polysemous word, and ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009) has two classes that refer to different senses of the word: *construction machine* and *wading bird*. However, they both use the same label. Thus, in *1-Template*, for example, both classes have the same description. This point highlights an important benefit of linking classes to WordNet, which resolves such ambiguities. Empirically, when compared with a ViT backbone to the *Lex Baseline*, our accuracies on CRANE (machine) and CRANE (bird) increase from 0% and 46% to 76% and 78%, respectively.

**Performance-Context** Relationship: When comparing the baselines to the other methods, we observe that accuracy generally improves as the amount of surrounding context increases. On one hand, if a sentence consists of "my crane." alone, the sense of *crane* is unclear. On the other, if the sentence is "my construction crane," the meaning of crane becomes clearer. We see that providing additional context helps to disambiguate words. When a description provides more useful context, models can form better representations of specific classes. By comparing V-GLOSS to the baselines (see Table 5), we can observe that the benefits of additional context extend to the vision-language setting. Concretely, providing visually-grounded context in the description improves performance.

**Class Granularity:** We consider pairs of classes that are similar enough to be mistaken, such as ALLIGATOR and CROCODILE. In WordNet, relationships between synsets are modeled through is-a (hyponymy-hypernymy) and part-of (meronymyholonymy) relationships. For example, CROCODIL-IAN is a hypernym of both ALLIGATOR and CROCODILE, while only ALLIGATOR is a holonym of SNOUT, since alligators have snouts while crocodiles do not. Using our contrastive algorithm, we generate descriptions that highlight how images of a CROCODILE should depict a greener animal with a rounded snout. Empirically, using ViT, the average accuracy of V-GLOSS across these two classes jumps from 36% to 68% when contrastive glosses are used. This improvement highlights the effectiveness of our contrastive V-GLOSS variant in reducing false positives between visually similar classes.

#### 6 Discussion

When looking at our results, a pertinent question arises: Why does an SKB, such as WordNet, help us do better on tasks related to vision? In this section, we formulate two insights on how the synergy between SKBs and LMs supports our improvements.

**Insight #1: SKBs represent concepts precisely** When LMs are prompted with higher-quality context, they produce better output (Borgeaud et al., 2022). WordNet provides a precise representation of a class and its relationship to other classes, leaving minimal room for ambiguity. Afterward, we can prompt an LM with this precise information to produce unambiguous and high-quality class descriptions.

**Insight #2: Semantic similarity is a useful proxy for visual similarity** WordNet models lexical semantics as a tree (see Figure 3), with synsets as nodes and *is-a* relationships as directed edges. The distance between different nodes reflects the level of semantic similarity, and is by extension an indicator of the level of visual similarity between synsets. ALLIGATOR and CROCODILE are semantically similar because they are both kinds of CROCODILIAN, but they are visually similar as well (see Table 2). Semantic similarity informs what classes we distinguish with our contrastive descriptions, and why they work (see Table 3). This is because semantic and visual similarity are highly correlated.

## 7 Conclusion

This study concentrates on generating visual class descriptions for zero-shot vision tasks. We employ a novel method that combines pre-trained language models (LMs) and semantic knowledge bases (SKBs) to create high-quality visual descriptions. Our findings suggest that the semantic information from an SKB can condition an LM to generate improved visual descriptions which yield higher accuracy and expressiveness. We also show that our contrastive algorithm improves fine-grained discrimination between similar concepts. The integration of SKBs with LMs reveals partially latent knowledge about visual attributes in the latter and demonstrates a significant interplay between the linguistic and visual domains. These results also pave the way for future exploration into leveraging text-only LMs in multi-modal tasks.

## Limitations

The dataset must be mapped to an SKB. As described earlier, mapping the dataset to WordNet, although a one-time step, is not fully automatic. In future work, we look to fully automate this step, possibly by selecting a synset based on the similarity between sample class images and potential senses of the class label.

We are limited in terms of language, dataset class count, and our SKB's size. First, our English-focused stance may prove a limiting factor in our method being applied to ZSIC or ZSCIG tasks based in other languages. Some classes are strongly related to non-English languages.

Second, our largest evaluation dataset, ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009), has 1,000 classes, representing just 0.64% coverage of WordNet. We look forward to evaluating our methods on a larger ImageNet set: ImageNet-21k, which would cover 14.06% of WordNet.

Third, although our method can be applied to BabelNet (Navigli and Ponzetto, 2012), which has over 1.5 billion synsets, we focus on WordNet, which has 155,287. We look to explore alternative SKBs such as BabelNet, or non-English wordnets, both of which offer the benefit of being multilingual.

## **Ethics Statement**

In normal use, we discover no direct ethical issues with our method. Note, however, that we may inherit ethical problems from the components used by our method. Both CLIP (Agarwal et al., 2021) and LMs (Liang et al., 2021) have independently been shown to exhibit some level of bias. Also, semantic resources such as WordNet (Miller, 1998) tend to focus on formalized concepts. This poses a problem if our method's use concerns people on the fringes of society.

We noted earlier that our method is mostly English-focused. This could be a source of bias if our method is applied in a multilingual context. We ask that people do not apply our method to realworld problems where multilingual knowledge is required. There is also the issue of semantic resources for low-resource languages not being extensive enough (Magueresse et al., 2020).

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#### **A** Appendices

The appendices contain Table 6 which compares WordNet glosses to V-GLOSS descriptions for the first 100 classes in ImageNet. Next, we show examples of the cases where our most frequent sense heuristic for mapping a class to WordNet failed in Table 7. Finally, in Table 8, we show a more detailed variant of Table 5 which compares multiple variants of the CLIP backbone. The authors of CuPL also combined their method with Template Ensembling. The resulting method, CuPL + Template Ensembling, combines the class descriptions from both methods and leads to marginally better performance.

#### A.1 Attention Maps

We also briefly analyze V-GLOSS attention maps to better understand its impact on performance. Figure 5 shows the attention map for V-GLOSS (see Table 1 for descriptions), indicating effective utilization of visually-relevant context. Conversely, Figure 6 shows the attention map for the Word-Net glosses, where the attention score on *bottle* is 3.5x higher, showing less distraction in V-GLOSS. These maps demonstrate success in steering the model's attention toward relevant context, thus improving classification accuracy across different classes and descriptions. We speculate that our descriptions also reduce distraction in images, but leave this to future work.



Figure 5: Attention map for V-GLOSS description



Figure 6: Attention map for WordNet gloss

#### A.2 Normal Prompts Per Class

We also show how accuracy changes with the number of normal prompts used for each class. This result is similar to those shown in Pratt et al. (2022).



Figure 7: V-GLOSS Accuracy vs. Normal Prompts.

# A.3 WordNet vs. V-GLOSS

Class	WordNet Gloss	V-GLOSS
tench	freshwater dace-like game fish of Europe and western Asia noted for ability to survive outside water	Freshwater fish of the family Cyprinidae, found in Europe and western Asia, with a long, slender body, a large mouth, and a forked tail.
goldfish	small golden or orange-red freshwater fishes of Eurasia used as pond or aquarium fishes	Small freshwater fishes of the family Cyprinidae, native to East Asia, introduced to many other parts of the world.
great white shark	large aggressive shark widespread in warm seas; known to attack humans	Large, white, shark-like fish with a large mouth and sharp teeth.
tiger shark	large dangerous warm-water shark with striped or spotted body	Large warm-water shark with a dark brown or black body, white underbelly, and white or yellowish-white dorsal fin.
hammerhead shark	medium-sized live-bearing shark with eyes at either end of a flattened hammer-shaped head; worldwide in warm waters; can be dangerous	Large shark with a flattened head and eyes at either end of the head.
electric ray	any sluggish bottom-dwelling ray of the order Torpediniformes having a rounded body and electric organs on each side of the head capa- ble of emitting strong electric discharges	Sluggish bottom-dwelling rays of the order Tor- pediniformes with electric organs on each side of the head.
stingray	large venomous ray with large barbed spines near the base of a thin whiplike tail capable of inflicting severe wounds	Large, flat, wingless ray with a long, whip-like tail and sharp, barbed spines near the base.
rooster	adult male bird	Male bird larger than a hen with a crest of feathers on its head.
hen	adult female bird	Bird that lays eggs.
ostrich	fast-running African flightless bird with two- toed feet; largest living bird	Large flightless bird with a long neck and legs, large head, and long, pointed, featherless, yellow-brown or black beak.
brambling	Eurasian finch	Small brown bird with a black head and a white patch on its chest.
goldfinch	small European finch having a crimson face and yellow-and-black wings	Small bird with a bright yellow face and black wings.
house finch	small finch originally of the western United States and Mexico	Small bird with a bright red head, black back, and white breast.
junco	small North American finch seen chiefly in win- ter	Small brownish-gray bird with a white belly and a dark cap, found in open areas.
indigo bunting	small deep blue North American bunting	Small deep blue North American bunting.
American robin	large American thrush having a rust-red breast and abdomen	Small brown bird with a red breast and a black head and tail.
bulbul	nightingale spoken of in Persian poetry	Small bird with a long tail and a long, pointed beak.
jay	crested largely blue bird	Crested, largely blue bird with a crest on its head and a long tail.
magpie	long-tailed black-and-white crow that utters a raucous chattering call	Black-and-white crow with a long tail, often seen in groups.
chickadee	any of various small grey-and-black songbirds of North America	Small grey-and-black songbird of North Amer- ica.
American dip- per	small stocky diving bird without webbed feet; frequents fast-flowing streams and feeds along	Small bird with a black head, white breast and back, and white belly; short, thick, black bill and
	the bottom	a black tail with white tips.
kite (bird of	any of several small graceful hawks of the fam-	Large bird with a long pointed tail and a forked
prey)	ily Accipitridae having long pointed wings and feeding on insects and small animals	tail, used to catch insects and small animals.
bald eagle	a large eagle of North America that has a white head and dark wings and body	Large bird of prey with a white head and dark wings and body.
vulture	any of various large diurnal birds of prey having naked heads and weak claws and feeding chiefly on carrion	Large bird of prey with a bald head, hooked beak, and bare neck.
great grey owl	large dish-faced owl of northern North America and western Eurasia	Large owl with a round head, large eyes, short tail, white face, and gray body with a white patch on the back of the neck.
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Table 6: Comparison of WordNet glosses and V-GLOSS descriptions for the first 100 ImageNet classes

Class	WordNet Gloss	V-GLOSS
fire salamander	a kind of European salamander	Small amphibian with a long tail and a long, thin
smooth newt	small semiaquatic salamander	Small semiaquatic salamander with a long tail
newt	a newt in its terrestrial stage of development	and a long, pointed snout. Small amphibian with a long tail, a long, thin
		body and a short head.
spotted sala- mander	glossy black North American salamander with yellow spots	Glossy black amphibian with yellow spots.
axolotl	larval salamander of mountain lakes of Mexico	Salamander living in mountain lakes of Mexico,
American bull-	that usually lives without metamorphosing	usually found in muddy water.
frog	a deep-pitched voice	and dark brown or black belly; large head with bulging eves and a long, pointed shout.
tree frog	any of various Old World arboreal frogs distin-	Small frog with a long, thin body, long, thin tail,
	guished from true frogs by adhesive suckers on the toes	and long, thin tongue.
tailed frog	western North American frog with a taillike cop- ulatory organ	Small frog with a long, thin tail used for balance and jumping.
loggerhead sea	very large carnivorous sea turtle; wide-ranging	Large, slow-moving, carnivorous sea turtle with
turtle	in warm open seas	a hard shell and long, pointed head.
turtle	carapace; largest living turtle	long, pointed snout.
mud turtle	bottom-dwelling freshwater turtle inhabiting	Turtle living in muddy rivers and lakes in North
	muddy rivers of North America and Central America	America and Central America.
terrapin	any of various edible North American web-	Large, flat-bodied, freshwater turtle with a diamond shaped shall and lang tail
box turtle	chiefly terrestrial turtle of North America: shell	Large, slow-moving, terrestrial turtle with a hard
	can be closed tightly	shell and long tail.
banded gecko	any of several geckos with dark bands across the	Small lizard with dark bands across its body and
	movable evelids: of United States southwest and	a movable eyelid.
	Florida Gulf Coast	
green iguana	large herbivorous tropical American arboreal	Large, bright green lizard with a spiny crest
	as human food in Central America and South	along the back and long tall.
	America	
Carolina anole	small arboreal tropical American insectivorous	Small arboreal lizard with a long tail and color-
desert grassland	any of numerous very agile and alert New World	Small lizard with a long tail, usually black and
whiptail lizard	lizards	white or brown and white.
agama	small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the	Small lizards with long tails, long legs, and a
frilled-necked	large arboreal insectivorous Australian lizard	Large arboreal insectivorous Australian lizard
lizard	with a ruff of skin around the neck	with a ruff of skin around the neck.
alligator lizard	slim short-limbed lizard having a distinctive fold	Slim, short-limbed lizard with a distinctive fold
	North America	North America.
Gila monster	large orange and black lizard of southwestern	Large, orange and black lizard with a long tail
	United States; not dangerous unless molested	and forked tongue.
European green	a common Eurasian lizard about a foot long	Small reptile with a long tail, pointed snout, and row of spikes along its back
chameleon	a chameleon found in Africa	Small lizard with a long tail, long neck, and long,
		thin body covered with many small, sharp scales.
Komodo dragon	the largest lizard in the world (10 feet); found on Indonesian islands	Large lizard with a thick, scaly body, long tail, and large head with sharp teeth.
Nile crocodile	a dangerous crocodile widely distributed in Africa	Large crocodile with a broad, flat snout, long tail, and long, pointed snout.
American alli- gator	large alligator of the southeastern United States	Large reptile with a long snout, broad head, and long tail.
triceratops	huge ceratopsian dinosaur having three horns	Large herbivorous dinosaur with three horns and
	and the neck heavily armored with a very solid frill	a frill on its neck.

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Class	WordNet Gloss	V-GLOSS			
worm snake	small reddish wormlike snake of eastern United States	Small reddish wormlike snake of eastern United States.			
ring-necked snake	any of numerous small nonvenomous North American snakes with a yellow or orange ring around the neck	Small nonvenomous snake with a yellow or or- ange ring around the neck.			
eastern hog- nosed snake	harmless North American snake with upturned nose; may spread its head and neck or play dead when disturbed	Harmless North American snake with upturned nose; may spread its head and neck or play dead when disturbed.			
smooth green snake	either of two North American chiefly insectivo- rous snakes that are green in color	Slender, smooth-scaled snake with a green or yellowish-green coloration.			
kingsnake	any of numerous nonvenomous North Ameri- can constrictors; feed on other snakes and small mammals	Large, nonvenomous snake with a pattern of alternating light and dark bands on its body.			
garter snake	any of numerous nonvenomous longitudinally- striped viviparous North American and Central American snakes	Slender, smooth-scaled, nonvenomous snake with a long tail and a pattern of alternating light and dark bands.			
water snake	any of various mostly harmless snakes that live in or near water	Slender, elongated, usually nonvenomous snake with a flattened head and a long tail often held above the head.			
vine snake	slender arboreal snake found from southern Ari- zona to Bolivia	Slender arboreal snake found from southern Ari- zona to Bolivia.			
night snake	nocturnal prowler of western United States and Mexico	Nocturnal colubrid snake that is black with a white belly and a white stripe down its back.			
boa constrictor	very large boa of tropical America and West Indies	Large snake with a thick body and large head covered with scales, forked tongue.			
African rock python	very large python of tropical and southern Africa	Large, heavy, non-venomous snake, grey or brown with a black head and yellowish belly.			
Indian cobra	a cobra of tropical Africa and Asia	Large venomous snake with a hooded head and forked tongue.			
green mamba	green phase of the black mamba	Large venomous snake with a green body and black head and tail.			
sea snake	any of numerous venomous aquatic viviparous snakes having a fin-like tail; of warm littoral seas; feed on fish which they immobilize with quick-acting venom	Venomous snake living in the sea with a long, thin body, large head, and forked tongue.			
Saharan horned viper	highly venomous viper of northern Africa and southwestern Asia having a horny spine above each eye	Venomous snake with a horny spine above each eye.			
eastern dia- mondback rattlesnake	large deadly rattlesnake with diamond-shaped markings	Large, venomous snake with a diamond-shaped pattern on its back.			
sidewinder rat- tlesnake	small pale-colored desert rattlesnake of south- western United States; body moves in an s- shaped curve	Small pale-colored desert rattlesnake of south- western United States; triangular head, long tail, and rattle on its tail.			
trilobite	an extinct arthropod that was abundant in Paleo- zoic times; had an exoskeleton divided into three parts	Fossilized arthropod from the Paleozoic era with a hard exoskeleton divided into three parts.			
harvestman	spiderlike arachnid with a small rounded body and very long thin legs	Spiderlike arachnid with a small rounded body and very long thin legs.			
scorpion	arachnid of warm dry regions having a long seg- mented tail ending in a venomous stinger	Venomous arachnid with a segmented tail ending in a stinger.			
yellow garden spider	a widely distributed North American garden spi- der	Large spider with a black body and a yellow abdomen.			
barn spider	an orange and tan spider with darkly banded legs that spins an orb web daily	Large, hairy spider with a dark brown body and a white, orange and black pattern on its abdomen.			
European garden spider	a spider common in European gardens	Small spider with a long, thin body and a large, round abdomen.			
southern black widow	venomous New World spider; the female is black with an hourglass-shaped red mark on the under- side of the abdomen	Spider with a black body and a red hourglass- shaped mark on the underside of the abdomen.			
tarantula	large hairy tropical spider with fangs that can inflict painful but not highly venomous bites	Large hairy tropical spider with fangs that can inflict painful but not highly venomous bites.			
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Class	WordNet Gloss	V-GLOSS
wolf spider	ground spider that hunts its prey instead of using a web	Large, hairy spider with a long, thin body, large head, two large eyes, and a pair of fangs.
tick	any of two families of small parasitic arachnids with barbed proboscis; feed on blood of warm- blooded animals	Small parasitic arachnid that feeds on blood.
centipede	chiefly nocturnal predacious arthropod having a flattened body of 15 to 173 segments each with a pair of legs, the foremost pair being modified as prehensors	Small, segmented, wormlike arthropod with a pair of long, segmented legs and a pair of short, segmented antennae.
black grouse	grouse of which the male is bluish-black	Grouse of which the male is bluish-black.
ptarmigan	large Arctic and subarctic grouse with feathered feet and usually white winter plumage	Large grouse with a white head and neck, brown body, and white tail.
ruffed grouse	valued as a game bird in eastern United States and Canada	Medium-sized game bird with a black body, white breast, and a ruff of feathers around the neck.
prairie grouse	brown mottled North American grouse of west- ern prairies	Large brown mottled North American grouse of western prairies.
peafowl	male peafowl; having a crested head and very large fanlike tail marked with iridescent eyes or spots	Large, colorful, iridescent bird with a fan-shaped tail and a crest on its head.
quail	small gallinaceous game birds	Small game bird with a plump body, short tail, long, pointed bill, and short, rounded tail.
partridge	small Old World gallinaceous game birds	Small bird with a brown body, white breast, and black head and neck.
african grey par- rot	commonly domesticated grey parrot with red- and-black tail and white face; native to equato- rial Africa	Medium-sized parrots with a grey body, red-and- black tail, and white face.
macaw	long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central America and South America; among the largest and showiest of parrots	Large brightly colored parrot with a long tail and long beak.
sulphur-crested cockatoo	white cockatoo with a yellow erectile crest	Large white cockatoo with a yellow erectile crest.
lorikeet	any of various small lories	Small brightly colored parrot-like bird with a long tail and curved beak.
coucal	Old World ground-living cuckoo having a long dagger-like hind claw	Large bird with a long dagger-like hind claw.
bee eater	colorful chiefly tropical Old World bird having	Colorful Old World bird with a strong graceful
hornhill	a strong graceful flight; feeds on especially bees	Inight that feeds on bees.
nomoni	large bill surmounted by a bony protuberance; related to kingfishers	Large hopical one with a large one and long tan.
hummingbird	tiny American bird having brilliant iridescent	Small bird with a long slender bill and iridescent
	plumage and long slender bills; wings are spe- cialized for vibrating flight	feathers.
jacamar	tropical American insectivorous bird having a long sharp bill and iridescent green or bronze plumage	Small, colorful birds with long bills and irides- cent feathers.
toucan	brilliantly colored arboreal fruit-eating bird of tropical America having a very large thin-walled beak	Large colorful bird with a long beak and crest on its head.
duck	adult male of a wild or domestic duck	Male duck.
red-breasted	widely distributed merganser of America and	Large duck with a red breast and black head and
goose	web-footed long-necked typically gregarious mi- gratory aquatic birds usually larger and less aquatic than ducks	Large bird with a long neck, short tail, usually white with black or brown markings.

Class	Wrong Sense	Correct Sense
Beaver	the soft brown fur of the beaver	large semiaquatic rodent with webbed hind feet and a broad flat tail; construct complex dams and underwater lodges
Castle	a large and stately mansion	interchanging the positions of the king and a rook
Cloud	any collection of particles (e.g., smoke or dust) or gases that is visible	a visible mass of water or ice particles suspended at a considerable altitude
Flatfish	sweet lean whitish flesh of any of numerous thin- bodied fish; usually served as thin fillets	any of several families of fishes having flattened bodies that swim along the sea floor on one side of the body with both eyes on the upper side
Leopard	the pelt of a leopard	large feline of African and Asian forests usually having a tawny coat with black spots
Lobster	flesh of a lobster	any of several edible marine crustaceans of the families Homaridae and Nephropsidae and Pal-inuridae
Otter	the fur of an otter	freshwater carnivorous mammal having webbed and clawed feet and dark brown fur
Raccoon	the fur of the North American racoon	an omnivorous nocturnal mammal native to North America and Central America
Ray	a column of light (as from a beacon)	cartilaginous fishes having horizontally flattened bodies and enlarged winglike pectoral fins with gills on the underside; most swim by moving the pectoral fins
Seal	fastener consisting of a resinous composition that is plastic when warm; used for sealing doc- uments and parcels and letters	any of numerous marine mammals that come on shore to breed; chiefly of cold regions
Shrew	a scolding nagging bad-tempered woman	small mouselike mammal with a long snout; re- lated to moles
Skunk	a person who is deemed to be despicable or con- temptible	American musteline mammal typically ejecting an intensely malodorous fluid when startled; in some classifications put in a separate subfamily Mephitinae
Table	a set of data arranged in rows and columns	a piece of furniture having a smooth flat top that is usually supported by one or more vertical legs
Television	broadcasting visual images of stationary or mov- ing objects; ; - Ernie Kovacs	an electronic device that receives television sig- nals and displays them on a screen
Tiger	a fierce or audacious person	large feline of forests in most of Asia having a tawny coat with black stripes; endangered
Turtle	a sweater or jersey with a high close-fitting collar	any of various aquatic and land reptiles having a bony shell and flipper-like limbs for swimming

# A.4 Mis-mappings stemming from the Most Frequent Sense Heuristic

Table 7: CIFAR-100 classes where the most frequent sense heuristic failed

$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Method	Model	Datasets				# LM
$ \begin{array}{c c} \text{Lex Baseline} & \begin{array}{c} \text{ViT-B-32} & 55.7 & 60.5 & 87.4 & 96.3 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 67.7 & 72.2 & 91.4 & 97.7 \\ \text{ViT-L-14.336} & 69.1 & 71.9 & 91.5 & 98.2 & 0 \\ \text{RN50} & 51.6 & 34.1 & 69.7 & 91.9 \\ \text{RN50x64} & 65.9 & 52.6 & 81.1 & 96.4 \\ \hline \text{I-Template Baseline} & \begin{array}{c} \text{ViT-B-32} & 59.4 & 64.5 & 88.3 & 97.3 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 71.1 & 77.3 & 95.2 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14.336} & 72.4 & 76.6 & 94.8 & 99.5 & 0 \\ \text{RN50} & 55.6 & 42.1 & 70.3 & 94.4 \\ \text{RN50x64} & 68.7 & 77.7 & 81.0 & 98.4 \\ \hline \text{Template Ensembling} & \begin{array}{c} \text{ViT-B-32} & 63.2 & 65.1 & 91.3 & 97.2 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 77.9 & 96.2 & 99.3 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 77.9 & 96.2 & 99.3 \\ \text{RN50} & 59.6 & 41.6 & 75.6 & 94.3 \\ \text{RN50x64} & 73.2 & 61.3 & 86.8 & 98.3 \\ \hline \text{CuPL} + \text{Template Ensembling} & \begin{array}{c} \text{ViT-B-32} & 64.6 & - & - & - \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 77.9 & 96.2 & 99.4 & 0 \\ \text{RN50} & 59.6 & 41.6 & 75.6 & 94.3 \\ \text{RN50x64} & 73.2 & 61.3 & 86.8 & 98.3 \\ \hline \text{CuPL} + \text{Template Ensembling} & \begin{array}{c} \text{ViT-B-32} & 63.0 & - & - & - \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.0 & - & - & - \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.0 & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50x64} & 75.1 & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50x64} & 75.1 & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50x64} & - & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50x64} & - & - & - & - \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.0 & 99.6 \\ \text{OIB} \\ RN50$			ImageNet	CIFAR-100	CIFAR-10	STL-10	Parameters
$\begin{array}{c c} \mbox{Lex Baseline} & ViTL-14 & 67.7 & 72.2 & 91.4 & 97.7 \\ ViTL-14-36 & 69.1 & 71.9 & 91.5 & 98.2 & 0 \\ RN50 & 51.6 & 34.1 & 69.7 & 91.9 \\ RN50x64 & 65.9 & 52.6 & 81.1 & 96.4 \\ \hline \end{tabular} \\ \hline \en$	Lex Baseline	ViT-B-32	55.7	60.5	87.4	96.3	
$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		ViT-L-14	67.7	72.2	91.4	97.7	
$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		ViT-L-14-336	69.1	71.9	91.5	98.2	0
$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		RN50	51.6	34.1	69.7	91.9	
$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $		RN50x64	65.9	52.6	81.1	96.4	
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	1-Template Baseline	ViT-B-32	59.4	64.5	88.3	97.3	
$\frac{ViT-L-14-336}{RN50} \begin{array}{c} 72.4 \\ RN50 \\ RN50 \\ 55.6 \\ 42.1 \\ 70.3 \\ 94.4 \\ 98.4 \\ \hline \\ $		ViT-L-14	71.1	77.3	95.2	99.5	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		ViT-L-14-336	72.4	76.6	94.8	99.5	0
$ \frac{RN50x64}{Template Ensembling} = \frac{RN50x64}{ViT-B-32} = \begin{pmatrix} 63.2 & 65.1 & 91.3 & 97.2 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 77.9 & 96.2 & 99.3 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 77.5 & 95.7 & 99.4 & 0 \\ RN50 & 59.6 & 41.6 & 75.6 & 94.3 \\ RN50x64 & 73.2 & 61.3 & 86.8 & 98.3 \\ \hline CuPL + Template Ensembling \\ ViT-B-32 & 64.6 & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 76.6 & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 76.6 & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 76.6 & - & - & - \\ RN50x & 61.3 & - & - & - \\ RN50x & 61.3 & - & - & - \\ RN50x64 & 75.1 & - & - & - \\ RN50x64 & 75.1 & - & - & - \\ \hline Menon and Vondrick \\ ViT-B-32 & 63.0 & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - \\ RN50x64 & 75.1 & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - \\ RN50x64 & 75.1 & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - \\ RN50x64 & - & - & - & - \\ V-GLOSS (Normal-Only) \\ ViT-B-32 & 63.2 & 65.1 & 91.2 & 97.3 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.6 & 99.4 & 6.1B \\ RN50 & 57.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ RN50x64 & 73.3 & 63.5 & 86.8 & 98.3 \\ \hline V-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive) \\ ViT-B-32 & 65.7 & 66.3 & 92.1 & 97.7 \\ ViT-L-14 & 77.6 & 78.2 & 97.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 77.6 & 78.5 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 77.6 & 78.5 & 76.8 & 95.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$		RN50	55.6	42.1	70.3	94.4	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		RN50x64	68.7	57.7	81.0	98.4	
$ \begin{array}{c} \mbox{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 77.9 & 96.2 & 99.3 \\ \mbox{ViT-L-14-336} & 76.2 & 77.5 & 95.7 & 99.4 & 0 \\ \mbox{RN50} & 59.6 & 41.6 & 75.6 & 94.3 \\ \mbox{RN50x64} & 73.2 & 61.3 & 86.8 & 98.3 \\ \hline \mbox{CuPL + Template Ensembling} & \begin{tabular}{lllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	Template Ensembling	ViT-B-32	63.2	65.1	91.3	97.2	
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		ViT-L-14	75.3	77.9	96.2	99.3	
$\frac{\text{RN50} & 59.6 & 41.6 & 75.6 & 94.3 \\ \text{RN50x64} & 73.2 & 61.3 & 86.8 & 98.3 \\ \hline \text{CuPL + Template Ensembling} & ViT-B-32 & 64.6 & - & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 76.6 & - & - & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14-336 & 77.6 & - & - & - & - & 175B \\ \text{RN50} & 61.3 & - & - & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50} & 61.3 & - & - & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50x64} & 75.1 & - & - & - & - & - \\ \hline \text{Menon and Vondrick} & ViT-B-32 & 63.0 & - & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50} & 61.2 & - & - & - & - & - \\ \text{Nenon and Vondrick} & ViT-B-32 & 63.2 & 65.1 & 91.2 & 97.3 \\ \text{RN50} & - & - & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50x64} & - & - & - & - & - \\ \hline \text{V-GLOSS (Normal-Only)} & ViT-B-32 & 63.2 & 65.1 & 91.2 & 97.3 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ ViT-L-14 & 73.3 & 63.5 & 86.8 & 98.3 \\ \hline \text{V-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive)} & ViT-B-32 & 65.7 & 66.3 & 92.1 & 97.7 \\ ViT-L-14 & 77.6 & 78.2 & 97.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 366 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14 & 356 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L & 95.0 & ViT-L & 97.0 \\ ViT-L & 95.0 & ViT-L & 95.0 \\ ViT-$		ViT-L-14-336	76.2	77.5	95.7	99.4	0
$ \frac{\text{RN50x64}}{\text{CuPL} + \text{Template Ensembling}} \begin{array}{c} \text{NiT-B-32} & 64.6 & - & - & - & - & - & - & - & - & - & $		RN50	59.6	41.6	75.6	94.3	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		RN50x64	73.2	61.3	86.8	98.3	
$\begin{array}{c} {\rm CuPL + Template Ensembling} & {\rm ViT-L-14} & 76.6 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm ViT-L-14-336} & 77.6 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm RN50} & 61.3 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm RN50} & 61.3 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm RN50x64} & 75.1 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm Menon and Vondrick} & {\rm ViT-B-32} & 63.0 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm ViT-L-14} & 75.0 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm ViT-L-14} & 75.0 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm ViT-L-14-336} & 76.2 & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm RN50} & - & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm RN50} & - & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm RN50} & - & - & - & - & - \\ {\rm V-GLOSS} \left( Normal-Only \right) & {\rm ViT-B-32} & 63.2 & 65.1 & 91.2 & 97.3 \\ {\rm V-GLOSS} \left( Normal-Only \right) & {\rm ViT-B-32} & 63.2 & 65.1 & 91.2 & 97.3 \\ {\rm ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ {\rm ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ {\rm ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.6 & 99.4 & 6.1B \\ {\rm RN50} & 57.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 57.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 57.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 67.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 67.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 67.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 67.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 67.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 67.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 67.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ {\rm RN50} & 62.8 & 45.8 & 76.8 & 95.0 \end{array}$	CuPL + Template Ensembling	ViT-B-32	64.6	-	-	-	
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		ViT-L-14	76.6	-	-	-	
$\frac{\text{RN50} & 61.3 & - & - & - & - \\ \text{RN50x64} & 75.1 & - & - & - & - \\ \hline \text{Menon and Vondrick} & ViT-B-32 & 63.0 & - & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.0 & - & - & - & - \\ ViT-L-14-336 & 76.2 & - & - & - & - \\ \text{N50x64} & - & - & - & - & - \\ \hline \text{RN50x64} & - & - & - & - & - \\ \hline \text{V-GLOSS (Normal-Only)} & ViT-B-32 & 63.2 & 65.1 & 91.2 & 97.3 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ ViT-L-14 & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.6 & 99.4 & 6.1B \\ \text{RN50} & 57.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ \text{RN50x64} & 73.3 & 63.5 & 86.8 & 98.3 \\ \hline \text{V-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive)} & ViT-B-32 & 65.7 & 66.3 & 92.1 & 97.7 \\ ViT-L-14 & 77.6 & 78.2 & 97.0 & 99.6 \\ ViT-L-14-336 & 78.5 & 78.0 & 96.0 & 99.6 \\ \text{KN50} & 62.8 & 45.8 & 76.8 & 95.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$		ViT-L-14-336	77.6	-	-	-	175B
$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		RN50	61.3	-	-	-	
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		RN50x64	75.1	-	-	-	
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Menon and Vondrick	ViT-B-32	63.0	_	-	-	
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		ViT-L-14	75.0	-	-	-	
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		ViT-L-14-336	76.2	-	-	-	175B
$\frac{\text{RN50x64}}{\text{V-GLOSS}(Normal-Only)} \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		RN50	-	-	-	-	
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		RN50x64	-	-	-	-	
$\begin{array}{c ccccc} \text{V-GLOSS (Normal-Only)} & \text{ViT-L-14} & 75.3 & 76.5 & 95.9 & 99.5 \\ \text{ViT-L-14-336} & 77.3 & 77.5 & 95.6 & 99.4 & 6.1B \\ \text{RN50} & 57.9 & 45.6 & 76.7 & 94.3 \\ \text{RN50x64} & 73.3 & 63.5 & 86.8 & 98.3 \end{array}$	V-GLOSS (Normal-Only)	ViT-B-32	63.2	65.1	91.2	97.3	
$\frac{\text{ViT-L-14-336}}{\text{RN50}} \begin{array}{c} 77.3 \\ 87.9 \\ 77.5 \\ 77.5 \\ 87.9 \\ 77.5 \\ 77.5 \\ 76.7 \\ 78.2 \\ 73.3 \\ 77.5 \\ 76.7 \\ 94.3 \\ 98.3 \\ 99.6 \\ 99$		ViT-L-14	75.3	76.5	95.9	99.5	
RN50 RN50x64         57.9 73.3         45.6 63.5         76.7 86.8         94.3 98.3           V-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive)         ViT-B-32 ViT-L-14         65.7 77.6         66.3 78.2         92.1 97.0         97.7 99.6           ViT-L-14         77.6         78.2         97.0         99.6           ViT-L-14-336         78.5         78.0         96.0         99.6           RN50         62.8         45.8         76.8         95.0		ViT-L-14-336	77.3	77.5	95.6	99.4	6.1B
RN50x64         73.3         63.5         86.8         98.3           V-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive)         ViT-B-32         65.7         66.3         92.1         97.7           ViT-L-14         77.6 <b>78.2 97.0 99.6</b> ViT-L-14-336 <b>78.5</b> 78.0         96.0 <b>99.6</b> RN50         62.8         45.8         76.8         95.0		RN50	57.9	45.6	76.7	94.3	
V-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive)         ViT-B-32 ViT-L-14         65.7 77.6         66.3 78.2         92.1 97.0         97.7 99.6           ViT-L-14         77.6         78.2         97.0         99.6           ViT-L-14-336         78.5         78.0         96.0         99.6           RN50         62.8         45.8         76.8         95.0		RN50x64	73.3	63.5	86.8	98.3	
v-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive)ViT-L-1477.678.297.099.6ViT-L-14-33678.578.096.099.66.1BRN5062.845.876.895.0	V-GLOSS (Normal + Contrastive)	ViT-B-32	65.7	66.3	92.1	97.7	
ViT-L-14-336 <b>78.578.096.099.66.1B</b> RN50 <b>62.845.876.895.0</b>		ViT-L-14	77.6	78.2	97.0	99.6	
RN50 62.8 45.8 76.8 95.0		ViT-L-14-336	78.5	78.0	96.0	99.6	6.1B
		RN50	62.8	45.8	76.8	95.0	
RN50x64 74.5 64.6 87.8 98.8		RN50x64	74.5	64.6	87.8	98.8	

# A.5 A More Detailed Comparison of Methods Over CLIP variants

 Table 8: Top-1 accuracy on ZSIC across five CLIP variants.