

Picture Description

What is it?

It is an attempt to describe what is there and what is happening in the picture. If the situation is not very clear, you could actually make a guess of what is happening in the picture

Why is it important?

It helps you:

- explore your creative thinking;
- expand the range of your vocabulary;
- use appropriate grammatical structures that you have learnt in your sessions; and
- speak freely without having to worry about the lack of knowledge of a subject or a topic

The structure

The following could be the structure you could adopt:

- Open your description with a **summary**
- Next give **some details** (you could talk about where things are in the picture, what is there in the background/foreground)
- Later, **describe it in more detail** (don't describe everything; describe only the most important part)
- Now, **speculate** (talk about possibilities)
- Finally, **speculate about the context**

Let's look at the structure in detail, shall we?



Summary:

The picture shows four people discussing something.

The structure: in detail (contd.)



Details:

In the background, there is a whiteboard, and in the middle of the room there is a screen.

The structure: in detail (contd.)



More details:

All of them are seriously discussing something. Also, we could see some books and sheets of papers on the tables.

The structure: in detail (contd.)



Speculation:

Maybe this is some sort of a project discussion in a company. Or, it might also be a classroom discussion where the teacher is helping the students with an assignment.

The structure: in detail (contd.)



Speculating the context:

Perhaps, the photograph was taken by a fifth person. Or, there is a possibility that the picture was taken for the purpose of publishing it in a newsletter or a magazine.

Let's do an example.



Dos:

- Look at your picture carefully and take a few moments to think before you start talking.
- Talk for all the time you are given. If you have one minute to do the task, use every second.
- Practise the useful language below so you can explain which part of the picture you are talking about.

Don'ts

- Panic if you don't know the words for all the things in the picture. You *don't* need to know all the words for everything in the picture if you know what to say when you don't know an exact word.
- Get distracted and start talking about something else. Focus on the photo or picture.
- Panic if your mind goes blank. Take a deep breath, look at the picture and start again.

Language use

What is in the picture?

- *In the picture I can see ...*
- *There's / There are ...*
- *There isn't a ... / There aren't any ...*

Say what is happening with the present continuous

- *The man is ...ing*
- *The people are ...ing*
- *It's raining.*

Language use (contd.)

Where in the picture?

- *At the top/bottom of the picture ...*
- *In the middle of the picture ...*
- *On the left/right of the picture ...*
- *next to*
- *in front of*
- *Behind*
- *Near*
- *on top of*
- *under*

Language use (contd.)

If something isn't clear / speculating

- *It looks like a ...*
- *It might be a ...*
- *He could be ...ing*
- *Maybe it's a ...*
- *Perhaps...*

Let's look a sample picture description, shall we?

Now, it's your turn.

All the best!











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At the park

- 1 Look and say. Then listen and find. 2.12
- 2 Listen and say the chant. 2.13

























































