

How to Describe a Picture

1. Talk about the **MAIN IDEA** that is happening in the picture and the **PLACE** where the picture was taken.

Example: This is a picture of a little girl listening to music with headphones in her bedroom.

This is a picture of...
In this picture I can see...
This picture shows...

This picture was taken in.... (place)
The photo was taken at ...(party)
It's a black and white/coloured photo...

2. CONTENT and ACTION. Describe as much as you can. Use physical descriptions of the things, places & people in the picture and where they are. If you describe people, talk about age, physical appearance, clothes, actions... What are people doing?

It's an image of... (place, person, scene)
The picture shows....(place, person, scene) from distance.
In the picture you can see...

There is/there are..... (position)

At the top of the picture,
at the bottom of the picture
in the middle of the picture

on the right near the...
on the left by the....

in the right corner
in the left corner

in the foreground at the front...
in the background

In the top left corner	at the top of the photo on the top of it...	In the top right corner
On the left	In the middle of the photo	On the right
In the bottom left corner	at the bottom in the lower part...	In the bottom right corner

When talking about **PEOPLE**:

Talk about people's appearance, clothes, relationship. If there is not a main character, focus on the group.

What are the people like? What are they wearing? How are they related?

Example: She's about three years old. She's got short fair hair and big dark eyes. She's wearing...

3. IDEAS & OTHER DETAILS. Speculate about the scene.

What has happened?

What do you think will happen next?

What is the weather like?

What else can be interesting in the picture?

4. IMPRESSION. Give some impressions and opinions. Use your imagination to make assumptions. Talk about things that “could be”. How do they look? What’s their emotional state? What could they be thinking/talking about?

*Example: The girl **could be** listening to classical music to improve her mind. **Maybe** her mother makes her listen to music or **maybe** she just listens for fun. She **might be** listening to music on a train to pass the time. **Maybe** it isn't even music at all. She **may be** learning a language.*

Perhaps they are...	I'm not sure but they could be...
Maybe they are...	They seem to be...(baking a cake)
It might be...	It must be winter/summer because....
They look (happy/sad/angry....)	It seems to me that....

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL. Talk about examples in your life that are similar/relate to the picture.

Example: I have some headphones that look like the ones the girl has. My dad gave them to me.

The picture makes me feel.....	This picture makes me think of....
This picture reminds me of....	

6. CONCLUSION. Try and have a closing statement.

I like/don't like this picture because...
Personally, I'd love to be in that place because...

**Use HESITATION WORDS OR SOUNDS: These give you time to think (Make sure you don't use them in your own language).

Well... Er... Let me see... Mmm... Then... I mean...
--

**Use REPHRASING EXPRESSIONS.

What I'm trying to say is....	What I really mean is ...
-------------------------------	---------------------------

**PARAPHRASE: If you don't know a word, use these expressions to talk “round” it:

It's used to...../ It's used for opening/ You use it to open....
It's what you do when you... (if you don't know the verb)
I don't know what you call it, but...(describe or define it)
It's a kind/sort of.....It's like.....It's stuff/ a thing for...

*****REMEMBER**

- Keep eye contact with the examiner, be friendly and show a positive attitude (SMILE AND RELAX)
- Talk in sentences – don't produce lists of items you can see.
- Organise your description – don't describe the same thing more than once.