Describing a Photo

- Introduction
- Talk about the place
- Describe the position
- Describe people’s age
- Describe people’s clothes
- Describe people’s actions
- Describe people’s roles
- Describe people’s feelings
- Your opinion
- Your memories
Describing a Photo

- **Give a general introduction:** e.g. 'This picture/photo shows ...' or 'In this picture/photo I can see...' or 'This is a picture of ...'

- **Talk about the places:** e.g. 'They’re driving in the country/in a city/in the mountains' or 'She’s sitting inside/outside a café' or 'I can see a street market/old building/square/street/restaurant/beach ... or ‘They are sitting in the city, in the mountains, in a hotel...’

- **Describe the position:** On the right, on the left, in the middle of the photo, in the background, next to, behind, in front of...
  e.g. 'In the middle of the picture there is a group of people, probably tourists because ...' or 'In the background there is a church ...' or 'There’s a bookshelf next to/near/behind/in front of the door'.
Describing a Photo

- **Describe people’s age**: e.g. ‘He’s about 50 years old’ or 'She’s a teenager/a young child/a middle-aged woman’ or ‘They are in their twenties/they are about twenty...’

- **Describe people’s clothes**: colour, material...
  e.g. 'She’s wearing a pair of shorts and a red T-shirt' or 'They’re wearing quite casual/smart clothes' or 'He’s wearing a uniform’

- **Describe people’s actions**: e.g. ‘They are cooking, eating...’ or 'He’s sitting at a desk' or 'She’s standing in a queue' or 'They’re having a meal' or 'Some people are sunbathing and others are swimming in the sea'
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- **Describe people’s roles**: e.g. ‘He’s probably a teacher, a student, his dad...’ or 'He’s probably a shop assistant and she’s a customer' or 'This person on the left seems to be a tourist guide – he’s pointing to a building' or 'The man serving the drinks is a waiter'

- **Describe people’s feelings**: eg. ‘He seems sad/happy/excited...’ or ‘They are enjoying themselves because they are smiling' or 'He seems a bit frightened. Maybe this is the first time he’s tried this' or 'She looks very interested in this activity – she’s concentrating very hard'

- **Your opinion**: e.g. ‘In my opinion the photo is very interesting/funny because...’

- **Your memories**: e.g. ‘This photo reminds me of my childhood/my holidays...’
Hesitation strategies

• Well, let’s see
• I mean
• I guess
• I’m not really sure

Take note!

LOOK - for adjectives of appearance. He looks casual/old-fashioned/smart/sporty/trendy...

WEAR - with things to put on and take off. She’s wearing make up/a ring/sunglasses/a bracelet.

HAVE – with an item you don’t put on or take off. She has a tattoo/a piercing.

CARRY - with things we hold in our hands or arms. He’s carrying an umbrella/a suitcase/a bag...

DESCRIBING ACTIONS

PRESENT CONTINUOUS
BE: am, is, are + Gerund (-ing)
PARAPHRASE (use these phrases to describe words you don’t know)
e.g. 'It’s something you fry food in' (frying pan) or 'It’s a kind of container for flowers' (a vase) or 'It’s a cupboard for keeping clothes in' (a wardrobe).

MAKE GUESSES e.g. 'It might be summer because some people are wearing sunglasses' or 'It’s probably in the country, because ...' or 'This picture could be in Northern Europe because of the buildings...'
Let’s Practice Some Examples
• In this photo I can see a man and a baby. They are at home, probably in the living room.
• On the left we can see a man holding a baby. He is vacuuming the carpet with his right hand.
• The man is probably in his late thirties, I’m not sure. The baby is very young. He is probably only a few months.
• The man is wearing dark blue jeans, a brown shirt and no shoes (he is not wearing shoes). The baby is wearing a colorful t-shirt and a pair of shorts.
• The man seems worried and the baby sad.
• The living room is very tidy. The man is vacuuming a beautiful blue flowered carpet. I can see a sofa on the right and a coffee table in front of it. The room is very bright because of the big window.
• In my opinion, this photo shows the importance of sharing the housework.
NOW IT’S YOUR TURN
In this photo I can see...
Talk about:
Place
Position
People’s age
People’s clothes
People’s actions
People’s roles
People’s feelings
Your opinion
Questions

- Tell me something about this photo. What can you see?

- Imagine you are in the photo. Tell me your feelings, what has happened and what is going to happen next.

- Imagine you are sitting next to the boy in the photo. Tell me what he is doing, who he is, where you are, why he is smiling.
In this photo I can see...

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