

Useful vocabulary and phrases for describing a picture

Describing what is shown (use the present continuous to describe actions in progress):

This image shows a... (place)

It's a photograph / a painting / a portrait / a drawing / a landscape / an urban landscape

This photo was taken in... (time of day or year)

We can see a/an/some... (people / objects) + **general area in the image**

There is/are also ... (more details) + **place preposition** + the (people / object)

We can also notice ...

If you look carefully, you will see ...

Identifying a general area in an image:

In the upper part / At the top

In the lower part / At the bottom

In the foreground

In the background

Place prepositions:

Opposite (with an empty space in between)

In front of

Behind

Next to

Near (some people say "near to")

Far from

Between ... and ...

Among ...

At

In (inside)

On (in contact with)

Above (with no contact)

Over (with movement)

Under / Beneath

On the right / On the left

To the right of / To the left of

In the middle (of) / in the centre (of)

Describing what is not there:

Guessing past events: S + **has** probably + V (e.g.: This car **has** probably had a breakdown.)

Guessing imminent events: S + is probably **going to** + V (e.g.: He's probably **going to** fall down.)

Guessing missing information: must / can't / may / might / could (e.g.: The man **must** be his father).

Hypothesising: S + **may/might/could** ... (e.g.: The man **might** help the dog **if** he likes animals.)

Guessing actions in progress: (e.g.: I'm not sure, but I think + S + might be + V-ing ...)