

Let's describe a picture

USEFUL TIPS

Do:

- ⦿ 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't:

- ⦿ 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.
- ⦿ 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.

At the top of the picture

On the left of the picture

On the right of the picture

In the middle / centre of the picture

At the bottom of the picture





In the background there is...
In the background you can see...

In the foreground there is ...
In the foreground you can see...



It's a black – and – white photo



It's a coloured photo

Use the Present Progressive

The woman is sitting.

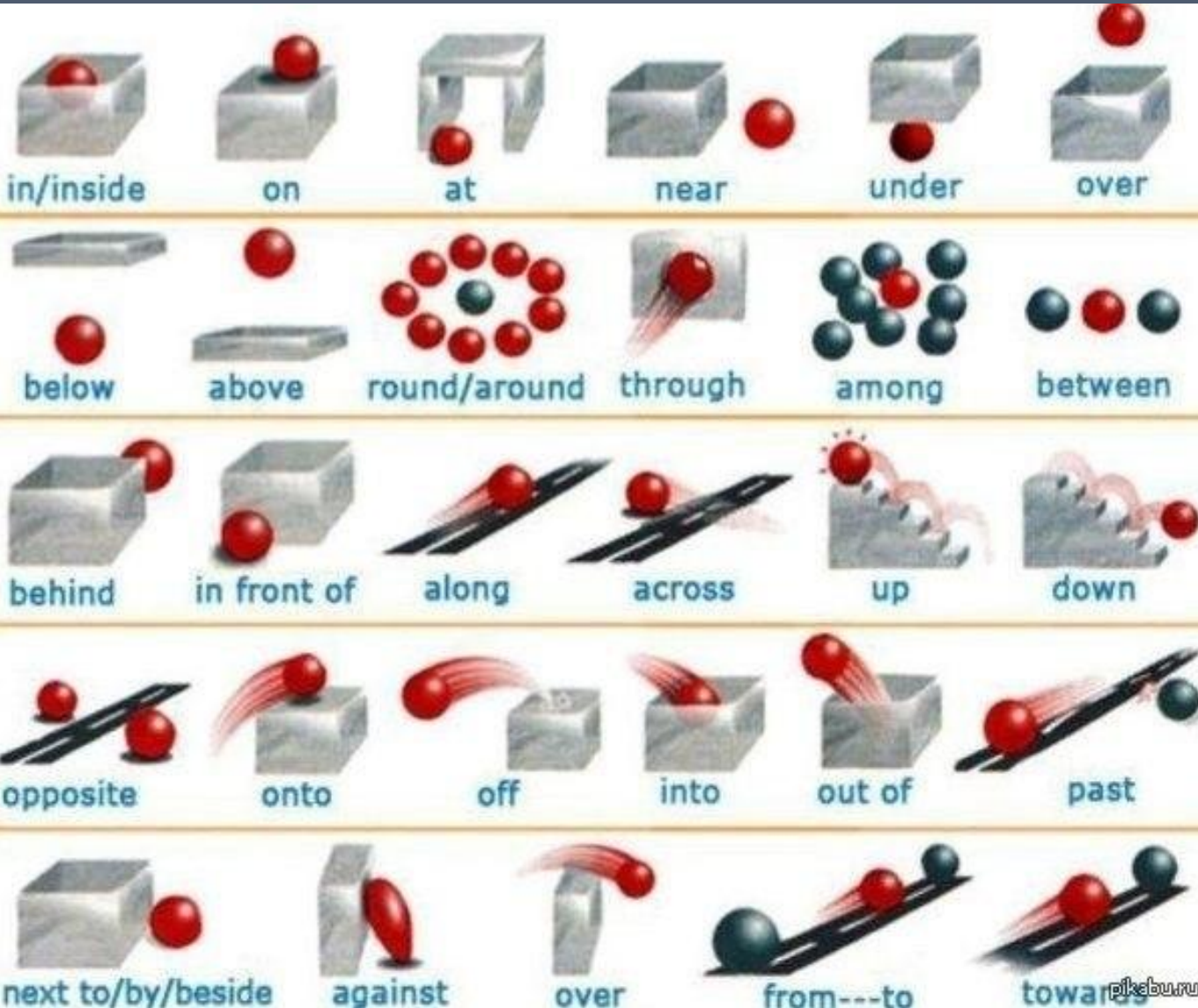
The boy is riding a bike.

The dog is watching.

The children are playing.



Use prepositions



Introduction

- ◎ The photo/picture shows ...
- ◎ *In the picture I can see ...*
There's / There are ...
There isn't a ... / There aren't any ...
- ◎ It was taken by/in ...
- ◎ It's a black-and-white/coloured photo.

What is where?

- ◎ In the foreground/background you can see ...
- ◎ In the foreground/background there is ...
- ◎ In the middle/centre there are ...
- ◎ At the top/At the bottom there is ...
- ◎ On the left/right there are ...
- ◎ Behind/In front of ... you can see ...
- ◎ Between ... there is ...

If something isn't clear

- ◉ *It looks like a ...*
- ◉ *It might (not) be a ...*
- ◉ *It must (not) be a ...*
- ◉ *It can (can't) be a ...*
- ◉ *He could be ...ing*
- ◉ *Maybe it's a ...*

Who is doing what?

- Here you describe the persons in the picture or you say what is happening just now.

- Use the

Present Progressive.

am, is, are + ing

What I think about the picture.

- ◎ It seems as if ...
- ◎ The lady seems to ...
- ◎ Maybe ...
- ◎ I think ...
- ◎ The atmosphere is peaceful/depressing ...
- ◎ I (don't) like the picture because ...
- ◎ It makes me think of ...
- ◎ I remember... because it brings back great memories of a memorable holiday...

COMPARING THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Describing the photos

- The first photograph **shows** ...
- In the second photo...
- In the foreground/background you can see ...

Comparing the photographs

- ◎ Both pictures (are about being)...
- ◎ I think the common theme here is ...
- ◎ Both pictures depict...
- ◎ Both of the photos show...

Contrasting

- ◎ **In contrast**, the people in the second photo look worried.
- ◎ **On the other hand**, the scene looks much more modern.
- ◎ **Unlike** the first photo, this looks like a happy occasion.
- ◎ The main difference between the two photos is that...
- ◎ In the first picture... whereas the other picture...

Personal feelings

- ◎ I think I'd prefer... as...
- ◎ Personally I...
- ◎ If I had chosen I would...
- ◎ The first photo **reminds me of** my own childhood.
- ◎ I wouldn't like to **be in their shoes.**

Gain Time

- ◎ What I really mean is that ...
- ◎ I take that back.
- ◎ What I am trying to say is that ...
- ◎ Let me see...
- ◎ Well...
- ◎ What I meant to say was...