

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**

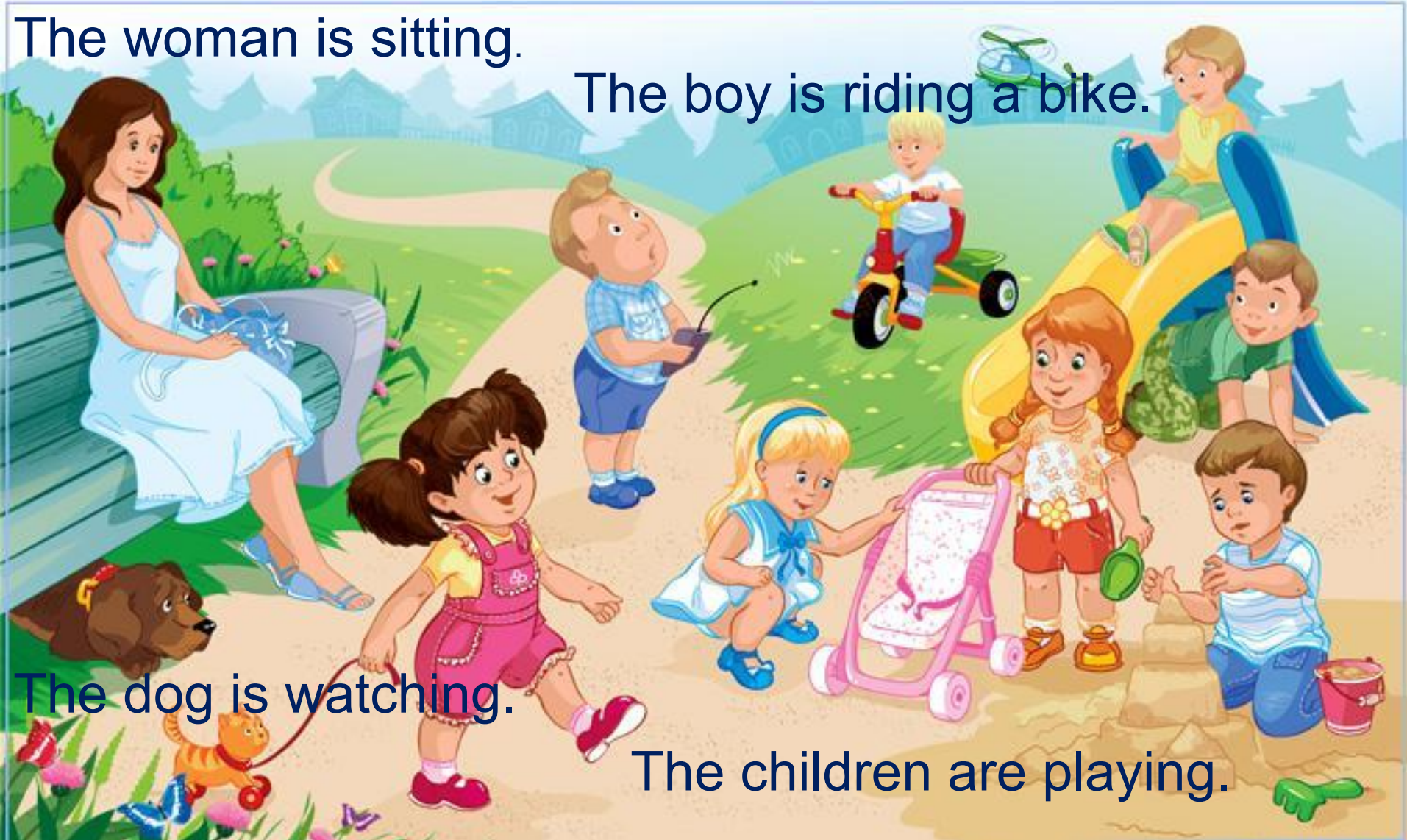
# Use the Present Progressive

The woman is sitting.

The boy is riding a bike.

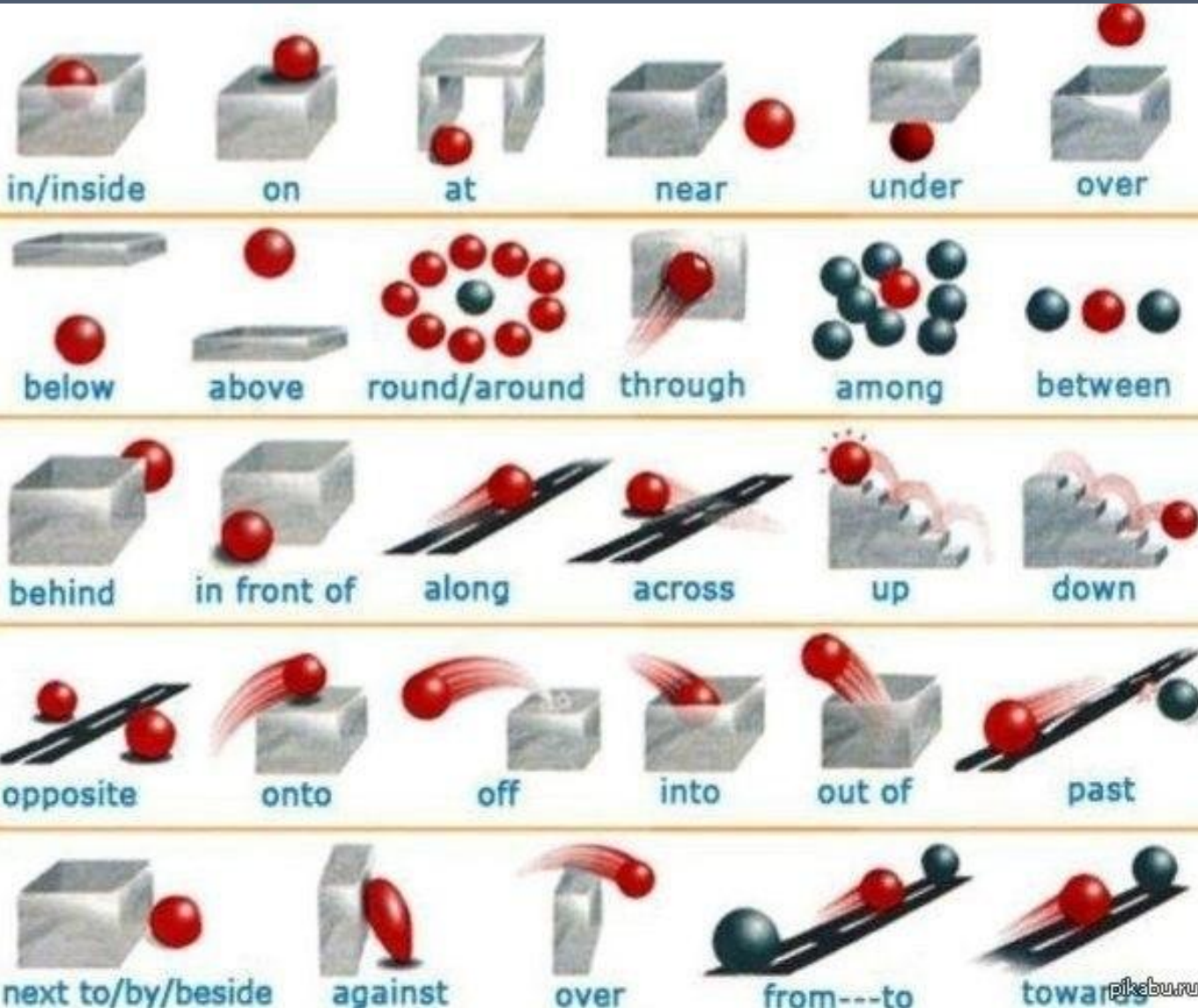
The dog is watching.

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...