

PET RESOURCES

How to describe a picture/photo

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In the upper left-hand corner | At the top of the photo On (the) top of it [<i>sopra a...</i>] IN THE BACKGROUND | In the upper right-hand corner |
| On the left On the left-hand side In the left part... | IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PHOTO | On the right On the right-hand side In the right part... |
| In the bottom left-hand corner | IN THE FOREGROUND At the bottom (of the photo) In the lower part | In the bottom right-hand corner |

Phrase List on Picture Description

<http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/writing/picture-description/vocabulary?02>

Information on artist and year of origin

- ... (*image*) is a painting by ... (*artist*), painted in ... (*year*).
- ... (*image*), painted in ... (*year*), is a work by ... (*artist*)
- ... (*artist*) painted ... (*image*) in ... (*year*).
- ... (*image*) is a famous painting by ... (*artist*).

Describing the scene

- The picture was taken in ... (*place*).
- The photo was taken at ... (*party*).
- The picture shows a scene from ...
- It's an image of ... (*place, person, scene*).
- The picture describes ... (*scene*).
- The picture shows ... (*place, person, scene*) from a distance.
- ... (*place, person, scene*) is shown from ... (*a bird's eye view/...*).
- You look at ... (*place, person, scene*) from ... (*above/behind/...*).

What can you see?

In the picture you can see ...

- ... (*position: on the left/right/...*) there is / are ...
- ... (*position: on the left/right/...*) you can see ...
- ... is ... (*position: on the left/right/...*)

Impression

- ... gives the impression of depth.
- ... (*person*) seems to look at the viewer.
- His / Her eyes seem to follow the viewer.
- The figures look as if they exist in three dimensions.
- The viewer has the impression that the people in the picture are alive.
- The viewer's attention is focused on ...
- To the alert eye it will become apparent ...
- The viewer finds it difficult to withdraw his eyes from ...
- The painting is vivid / happy / expressive.
- The picture makes the viewer feel ... (*sad/happy*)
- The picture inspires the viewer to think about ...

Intention

- The artist mainly uses ... (*colours/forms/...*)
- Important elements are highlighted.
- The artist / photographer / painter uses ... to express ...
- He / She (*probably*) wants to criticise / express / show ...
- It is obvious that the artist wants to criticise / express / show ...
- What the artist / photographer / painter wants to criticise / express / show is ...
- What the artist / photographer / painter wants to point out is ...
- I think / believe / am sure that ...
- It seems / appears to me that ...
- The problem illustrated here is ...
- ... symbolises ...
- ... is typical of ...

Word List on Picture Description

<http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/writing/picture-description/vocabulary>

| Kinds of pictures and perspectives | Structure | Others |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • viewer • picture, image • painting • photograph / photo • portrait • landscape painting • worm's eye view • bird's eye view | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foreground • background • in the upper part • in the lower part • in the left part • in the right part • in the central part • in front of • behind • next to ... • on the right • on the left • in the middle • from front • from behind • from above • from below • the second from left/right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • artificial light • daylight • subdued light • light colours • dark colours • loud colours [<i>sgargiante</i>] • loud pattern [<i>disegno vistoso</i>] • vanishing point [<i>punto di fuga</i>] • vanishing line |