

Part Two: Talking About Pictures

- 1 To talk coherently about a picture without having to point constantly to various parts of it, it is essential to know appropriate words and phrases for describing parts of a picture.

Look at the pictures on page 171 and describe them using the phrases below. With a partner, take it in turns to describe the content of each picture.

- in the foreground
- in the top left-hand corner
- in the top right-hand corner
- on the right-hand side
- on/to the right of ...
- at the top
- in front of ...
- next to/close to
- facing ...

- in the background
- in the bottom left-hand corner
- in the bottom right-hand corner
- on the left-hand side
- on/to the left of ...
- at the bottom
- behind ...
- between ...
- opposite ...

- 2 When you are talking about a picture, you may need to guess or deduce what the situation is in the picture because you cannot be completely sure. Instead of constantly using very simple phrases for doing this, such as 'Maybe' or 'I think', try to vary the way in which you speculate on the content of the picture.

Look again at the pictures on page 171 and try to use as many as possible of the phrases below to introduce comments on them. With a partner, take it in turns to guess or deduce what is happening in each picture.

- I get the impression that ...
- My impression is that ...
- I'd say ...
- I suppose ...
- I expect ...
- I imagine ...
- It would appear that ...
- I've got a feeling that ...
- He/She/They seem(s) to ...
- He/She/They seem(s) to have ...
- He/She/They seem(s) to be ...-ing
- In my opinion/view ...
- The way I see it ...
- If you ask me ...
- Judging by ...
- It's (quite/fairly/highly) likely that ...

- The impression I get is that ...
- It looks (to me) as if/as though ...
- I reckon ...
- I assume ...
- I guess ...
- I suspect ...
- I should think ...
- It's hard to say, but ...
- He/She/They must/can't ...
- He/She/They must/can't have ...
- He/She/They must/can't be ...-ing
- He/She/They might/could ...
- He/She/They might/could have ...
- He/She/They might/could be ...-ing
- As far as I can tell/see ...
- ... is quite/fairly/highly likely to ...