

Talking illustrations: Pictures, photos and cartoons

1. Take a good look at this illustration.
2. For a start, imagine describing it to someone who cannot see it.
3. In writing, use at least four paragraphs:
 - a. Name the title of the illustration, the artist and the date of its publication.
Briefly give an idea of what the illustration looks like (INTRODUCTION).
 - b. Say what you see. (DESCRIPTION)
 - c. Explain what it means (INTERPRETATION).
 - d. Lastly, sum up briefly (CONCLUSION).

Talk the (imaginary) listener through the illustration, using these phrases (and prepositions):

- *in the cartoon / in the picture / in the photo / on the right side / on the left side / further to the right / further to the left / left of / right of / at the top / at the bottom / in the middle / in the background / in the **middle distance** / in the foreground / behind / above / below / in front of / next to / between / under /*
- **Describe actions**
*someone **is walking** towards...she/he **is wearing** / **holding** / **talking**... / she **is waving** a flag... he **is eating** an apple... he/she **is holding** hands with...*
- *The **caption** says... / The inscription on the sign **says** / **reads**: "... " / The posters that the demonstrators are waving **say**: "... "*



Navigating within the illustration

in the top corner on the left	at the top	in the top corner on the right
to the left of the centre	↖ ↑ ↗	to the right of the centre
on the left-hand side (further) to the left	← in the middle at the centre →	on the right-hand side (further) to the right
on the left	↘ ↓ ↙	on the right
in the bottom corner on the left	(right) at the bottom	in the bottom corner on the right

Tips:

- When you start a sentence with an adverbial of place, continue with “there is” or subject plus verb.
Examples: “At the bottom”, there is a snake”. Or: “In the background, the moon is rising.”
- When you describe an action, always use the **present progressive**, e.g. “She is raising her hand.”