



## Glossar über gebräuchliche Redewendungen – Describing pictures

### Preparation

Have a close look at the picture and decide on how to structure your picture description.

What is important or special? What should the viewer pay attention to?

When you describe a picture, imagine you are talking about it to a blind person.

### Structure

You should first describe:

- the scene = place, event ... (e.g. *The picture obviously shows a stunt show*)
- then the people and the action portrayed in the (foreground of the) picture = details about who / what you can see (e.g. *The Stuntman who can be seen in the centre of the picture is trying to rescue a dog.*)
- then concentrate on the background (e.g. *In the background, a crowd of people has gathered*)

Then you should give background information (if necessary) on place, important person or event and (especially for cartoons) explain the message of the picture (You may also say whether you agree or disagree with the cartoonist).

## Word list

### ***Describing the scene***

- In the (middle of the) picture / In this photo you can see ...
- In this photo (position: on the left/right/...) there is / there are ... !!! there is / there are
- The (lower part of the) picture shows the ...(place, person, scene) from a distance
- A forest (place, person, scene) is ... (position: on the left/right/...)
- The picture was taken in... (place).
- The photo was obviously taken at ... (party).
- It's an image of ... (place, person, scene).
- (The building) ... is shown from ... (a bird's eye view / above / behind...).
- The main elements / most striking elements of the photo are on the right
- The picture is clearly dominated by the little boy in the centre of the picture

**Bitte umblättern!**



### ***The people and the action***

When describing people / figures in the picture talk about

- their outward appearance (age, clothes, etc.)
  - their background (working / middle / upper class, (un)educated, etc.)
  - their personality and behaviour (aggressive, friendly, introvert, extrovert, loud, noisy, innocent, lively, fun-loving, pleasant, nice, successful, outgoing, quiet, gentle, caring, helpful, talkative)
- The main figure seems to be / looks like / appears to have / probably has / is portrayed as / represents ...
  - At first glance, one might think that (the lady is well dressed), but a closer look at (her skirt) reveals that (it is full of holes).
  - The lady is shabbily dressed. One can see this from / judge this from / by the holes ...
  - The boy is neatly dressed. There is no evidence of (dirt on his trousers).
  - The main figure is one of those people who ... She is young, in her early twenties (late forties / a teenager, a child, an old man) and well dressed.

### ***Impression***

- The viewer's attention is focused on ...
- The picture makes the viewer feel ... (sad/happy)
- The picture makes the viewer think about ...

### ***Intention***

- The photographer uses ... to express ...
- The photographer sides with / against sb.      refers to a current problem
- He / She (probably) wants to criticise / attack / express / show ...
- It is obvious that the artist wants to make fun of / direct our attention to / express ...
- I think / believe / am sure that ...
- It seems / appears to me that ...

**Bitte umblättern!**



### Where in the picture

- foreground ⇔ background
- in the upper part ⇔ in the lower part
- in the left part ⇔ in the right part
- in the central part / in the middle
- (right) in the centre / middle of the picture
- in the top part ⇔ in the bottom part  
(*oberen* ⇔ *unteren Bereich*)
- at the top ⇔ at the bottom of the photo
- in front of /
- behind
- next to ...

→ In the foreground you can see ...

→ In the background there is / are ...

- on the right ⇔ on the left
- to the boy's right / left
- in front of the boy / behind the boy
- on both sides of / outside (the shop) / nearby there is ...
- in the top left-hand corner
- in the bottom right-hand corner
- on each side / on both sides
- from front ⇔ from behind
- from above ⇔ from below
- the second from left/right

→ A huge building is behind the road.

→ The lower part of the picture shows ...

