Describe a photo

A simple 5-step plan to talk about any photo for a full minute — without running out of things to say.

Cómo describir una foto en inglés en el examen Cambridge (B1 Preliminary, Part 2) y en clase.

1 What is the task?

¿En qué consiste?

B1 B1 Preliminary · Part 2

The examiner gives you **one colour photo**. You describe it on your own. Your partner then describes a different photo.

1 min each · **1** photo · **Solo** long turn

A2 A2 Key & young learners

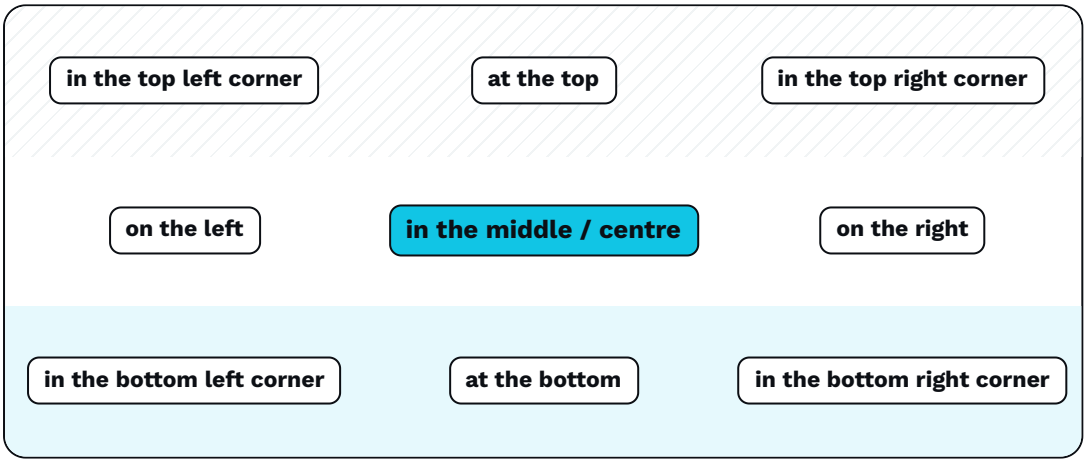
Pictures are used to talk about likes, compare and answer questions. The **position words** and **step 1–3** here work there too.

B2 B2 First & C1 Advanced

In Part 2 you **compare** two photos instead. Learn this plan first, then use our **Compare photos** guide.

2 Map the photo

Dónde está cada cosa



in the background
far away, at the back (striped area)

next to · behind
in front of
between two people / things

in the foreground
close to you, at the front (cyan area)

3 The 1-minute plan

Tu plan de 60 segundos

1 · 0–10 s	2 · 10–25 s	3 · 25–40 s	4 · 40–50 s	5 · 50–60 s
Overview	**People**	**Action**	**Place**	**Guess**
The photo shows... It looks like a...	Who? Age, clothes, appearance, how they feel.	What are they doing? Use the **present continuous**.	Inside or outside? Weather, season, objects.	Why are they there? What happens next? How do they feel?

4 Stuck? Keep talking

Si te quedas en blanco

Don't know the word? Paraphrase it.

It's a kind of... (es un tipo de...)
It's something you use for... (sirve para...)
I'm not sure what it's called, but it looks like...

Finished too early? Add one more thing.

How do they feel? They look...
What happened before? They've probably just...
Would you like to be there? Personally, I'd...

5 Phrases for each step

Frases útiles por nivel

Function	B1 B2 B1 – B2	C1 C1 upgrade
Overview Empezar	This photo shows... · In this picture I can see...	The photo appears to have been taken at... · What strikes me first is...
People Personas	There's a man with short dark hair. · She's wearing a red jumper.	a middle-aged man in his forties · a woman dressed casually in...
Action Acciones	They're having a picnic. · He's holding a phone.	They seem to be celebrating something. · She's in the middle of...
Guessing Especular	Maybe they are... · I think it's summer because...	They might / must / can't be... · Judging by..., I'd say... · It could well be...

6 Model answer

Respuesta modelo · nivel B1

≈ 125 words · 1 minute

Photo: a family having a picnic in a park on a sunny day.

1 This photo shows a family having a picnic in a park. 2 In the foreground there's a man with a beard and a woman with long dark hair. They're wearing T-shirts and sunglasses, so I think it's summer. 3 The man is pouring some lemonade and the woman is laughing. On the left, two children are playing with a ball. 4 In the background I can see some tall trees and a small lake. There are a lot of other people too, so it's probably a weekend. 5 Maybe they're celebrating a birthday, because there's a big cake next to the basket. They look really happy and relaxed.

1. General overview first.
2. Position + clothes and appearance.
3. Present continuous for actions.
4. Background details.
5. A guess with a reason — "because".

7 Spanish speakers' traps

Errores típicos

✗ ~~On the photo there is...~~
✓ **In the photo there is...**
in the photo / picture

✗ ~~A man drinks coffee.~~
✓ **A man is drinking coffee.**
actions in the photo = **-ing**

✗ ~~In the left there is a dog.~~
✓ **On the left there is a dog.**
on the left / right

✗ ~~Behind of the house...~~
✓ **Behind the house...**
no "of" after **behind**

✗ ~~The people is happy.~~
✓ **The people are happy.**
people = plural

✗ ~~In front of the bank (enfrente).~~
✓ **Opposite the bank.**
enfrente = **opposite**

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Vocabulario, trucos para Cambridge y errores típicos en Instagram y TikTok. Escanea el código o haz clic.

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