

# Speaking reference

## Part 1

### Greetings and salutations

Hello.  
Good morning/afternoon.  
How do you do?  
Nice to meet you.  
Pleased to have met you.  
Thank you.  
Goodbye.

### Giving personal information

I come from ...  
I live ... / I've always lived ...  
There are (three) of us in my family. There is me, ...  
My father/mother is a ...  
What I like about my house is ...  
I'm in the (third) year of high school ...  
I like doing ... , but I don't like ...  
In the future, I think I will ... but I haven't decided yet.  
My ambitions are ...

### Talking about personal tastes

I really/quite like ...  
I much/personally prefer ...  
I don't particularly like ...  
I (really) can't stand ...  
My favourite (things/activities) are ...  
I think ... is the best because ...  
That's what I like/prefer because ...  
If I could choose, ...

### Asking about personal tastes

Do you like ... ?  
What do you think about ... ?  
What do you like/dislike about ... ?

### Giving a physical description

tall, short, attractive, beautiful, blonde/blond, dark-haired, with glasses, with a beard, pale, tanned, slim, plump, thin, young-looking, serious, sunny, smart, well-dressed, casual, athletic

### Describing personality

stubborn, generous, tense, childish, impulsive, helpful, honest, gentle, fun, funny, polite, rude, unbearable, arrogant, friendly, sociable, sensible, miserable, mean, fussy, serious, sincere, nasty, tough, shy

## Part 2

### Describing the pictures

To begin with ...  
First of all, ...  
Firstly,  
In this photo, I can see ...  
There are several ...  
In the first/second photo I can see ...  
On the right/left of the picture ...  
In the centre of the picture ...  
In the background there are ...  
I can't quite make out ... , but I think ...

### Comparing the pictures

In this picture ... whereas in that one ...  
A key difference is that ...  
There are more ... in this one than ...  
On the one hand, ... on the other hand, ...  
Another difference might be ...  
While in this picture ... , in that picture ...

### Giving your opinion

I think ...  
I prefer ... because ...  
The ... is better/worse because ...  
Most people would agree that ...  
Although I can see the benefits of ... , I still consider ... to be more ...  
Life would probably be (more difficult/easier) with/if ...  
I can't imagine what it must be/have been like to live without ...  
There are so many advantages, like/for example ...  
I would go for ...  
I'm not 100% sure but ...  
I would definitely rather ...

### Looking at the pictures

- 1 **the background:** where you think it is – the country, town, inside, outside, forest, mountains, type of room or office or internal space, time of year, weather, time of day.
- 2 **atmosphere of the picture:** dominant colours, dominant expressions, type of activity, number of people or lack of people, how you think the people in the picture look.
- 3 **detail:** description of people – clothes, age, expression, possible feelings, attitude to the rest of the picture.
- 4 **personal reaction to picture:** I think ... / I consider ... / I would ... / I wouldn't ...
- 5 **conclusion:** response to specific task with motivations.

## Part 3

### Describing the pictures

#### 1 where you think it is

The people in picture ... are outside/inside ...  
The picture is in (a house/an office) in the (daytime/evening).  
The atmosphere in this picture is (happy/sad/serious).

#### 2 who is in the picture

There are (two/several/only a few) people in the picture.  
There is only one person in the picture.

#### 3 what they are doing

There's a lot going on in this picture.  
There's not much happening in this picture.  
In this picture I can see someone/some people ...

#### 4 how you think the people are feeling

The (boy/girl/man/woman) looks very (happy/sad/angry) maybe because ...  
The people in the picture seem very (contented/bored) perhaps because ...

### Comparing the pictures

This picture shows an interesting possibility where ...  
It is clear in this picture that ...  
In both pictures ... , but in this one ...

### Giving your opinions

If you ask me, ...  
It seems to me that ...  
In my opinion ...  
I think that ...  
I would also like to say ...  
I'd like to make a further point ...  
I think the possible problems with this idea are ...  
The advantages of this type of solution are ... , but there are also disadvantages, like ...  
All things considered, perhaps the best/worst ...

### Agreeing

Of course.  
I absolutely agree.  
Exactly!  
That's an excellent point!

### Disagreeing

I'm afraid I disagree/don't agree ...  
You're right/That's a good point, but ...  
That's not how I see it ...

### Giving reasons or examples

because ... / as ... / due to ...  
such as ... / for example ... / like ...

### Giving examples from your own experience

I have seen this type of solution ...  
I remember once (seeing/reading) about ... (in a newspaper/on the Internet).  
Once I was near/tried ...

### Taking the discussion forward

On the other hand, ...  
Don't you think ... ?  
What's more ...

### Talking about emotion in pictures

In this picture, from the expressions on the people's faces, I can tell they are feeling (happy/sad/excited/frightened) ...  
If it were me in that particular situation, I would be feeling ...  
We can't see the people's faces, but I am sure they must be feeling ...  
In the picture the (boy/girl) is (smiling/grinning/laughing), so (he/she) must be feeling (happy).  
In this picture the (man/woman) is looking (serious/sad/upset), so I think (he/she) is feeling (apprehensive/tense/nervous).

### Positive comments

This kind of (activity/event) is (interesting/appealing). It encourages people to ...  
The people doing (the event/game/sport) look as if they are (enjoying themselves/happy/having fun).  
The (people/children) are obviously finding it (interesting/stimulating).

### Negative comments

This kind of (activity/event) may be too (difficult to organise/expensive/complicated).  
The people don't look as if they are enjoying it.  
(He/She) looks (rather bored/quite fed up).  
I think it might be an activity that is more suitable for (younger/older) people.  
I think the people are finding it (difficult/tiring/boring).

### Concluding

So, which should we choose?  
To sum up ...