

Let's describe a picture

**USEFUL TIPS**

## Do:

- Look at your picture carefully and take a few moments to think before you start talking.
- Talk for all the time you are given. If you have one minute to do the task, use every second.
- Practise the useful language below so you can explain which part of the picture you are talking about.

# Don't:

- Panic if you don't know the words for all the things in the picture. You *don't* need to know all the words for everything in the picture.
- Get distracted and start talking about something else. Focus on the photo or picture.
- Panic if your mind goes blank. Take a deep breath, look at the picture and start again.

**At the top of the picture**

**On the left of the picture**

**On the right of the picture**

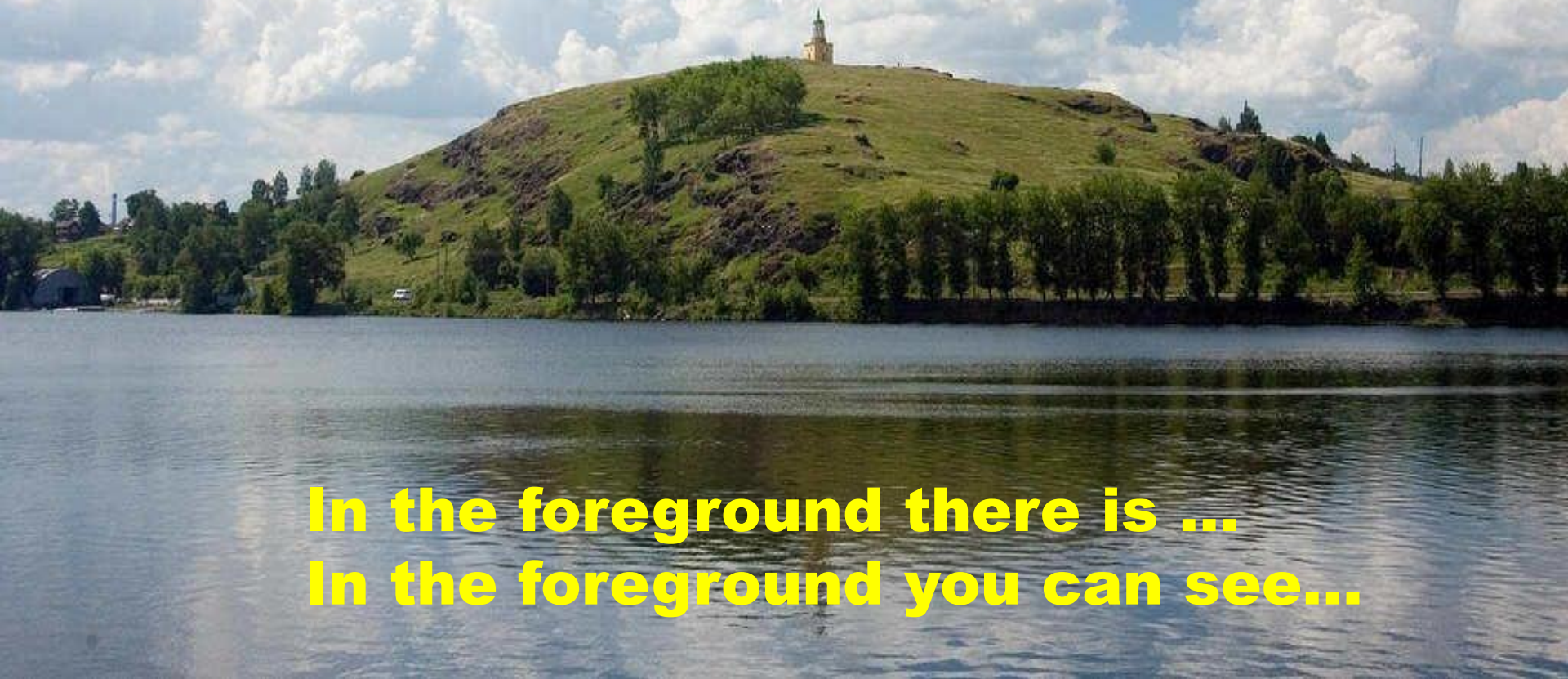
**In the middle / centre of the picture**

**At the bottom of the picture**





**In the background there is...**  
**In the background you can see...**



**In the foreground there is ...**  
**In the foreground you can see...**



**It's a black – and – white photo**





**It's a coloured photo**

# Use the Present Progressive

The woman is sitting.

The boy is riding a bike.

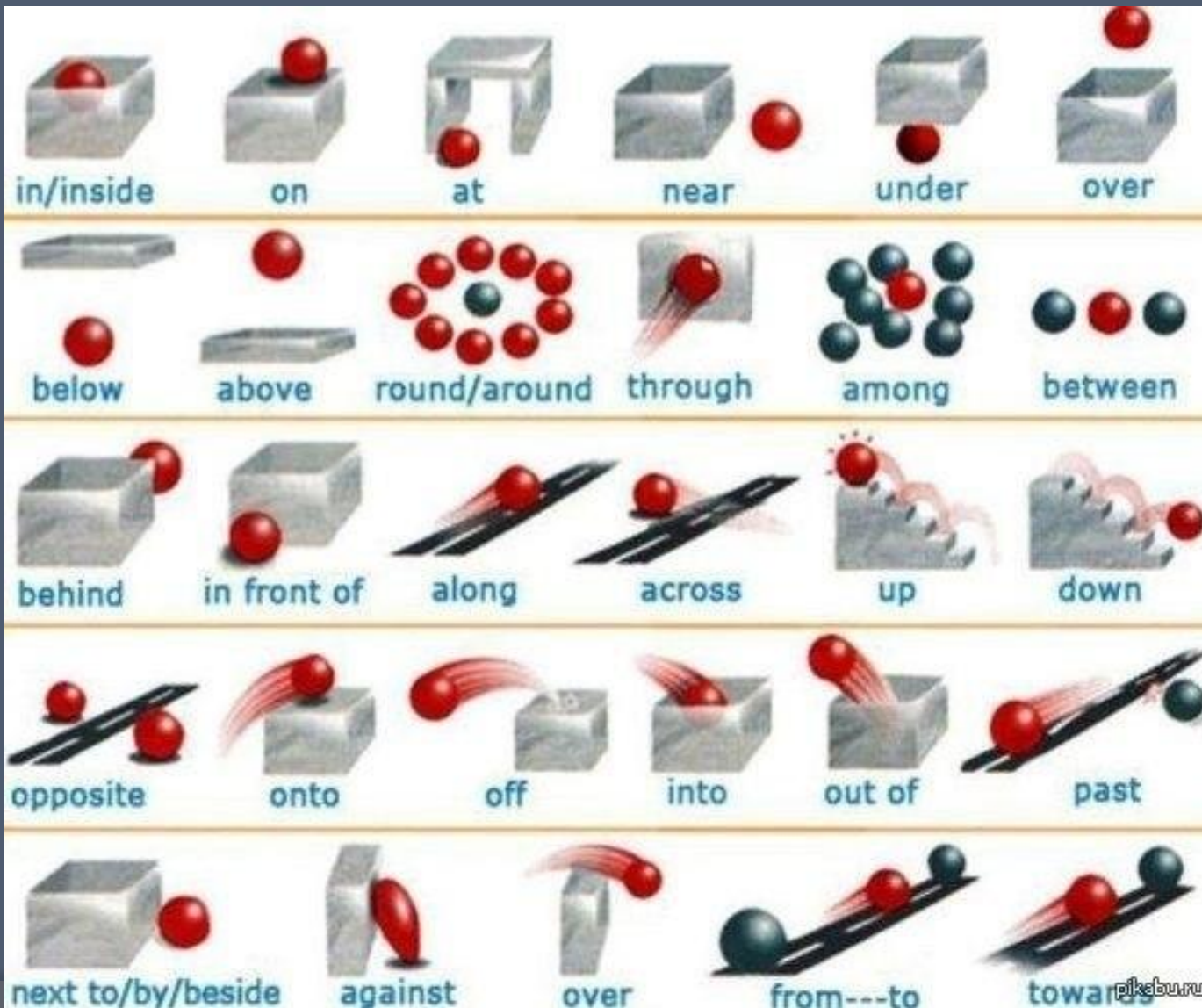
The dog is watching.

The children are playing.





# Use prepositions



# ***Introduction***

- The photo/picture shows ...
- *In the picture I can see ...*  
*There's / There are ...*  
*There isn't a ... / There aren't any ...*
- It was taken by/in ...
- It's a black-and-white/coloured photo.

# ***What is where?***

- ◉ In the foreground/background you can see ...
- ◉ In the foreground/background there is ...
- ◉ In the middle/centre there are ...
- ◉ At the top/At the bottom there is ...
- ◉ On the left/right there are ...
- ◉ Behind/In front of ... you can see ...
- ◉ Between ... there is ...



# If something isn't clear

- ◉ *It looks like a ...*
- ◉ *It might (not) be a ...*
- ◉ *It must (not) be a...*
- ◉ *It can (can't) be a...*
- ◉ *He could be ...ing*
- ◉ *Maybe it's a ...*

# *Who is doing what?*

- Here you describe the persons in the picture or you say what is happening just now.
- Use the

Present      Progressive.

am, is, are + ing

# ***What I think about the picture.***

- It seems as if ...
- The lady seems to ...
- Maybe ...
- I think ...
- The atmosphere is peaceful/depressing ...
- I (don't) like the picture because ...
- It makes me think of ...
- I remember... because it brings back great memories of a memorable holiday...



# **COMPARING THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

# Describing the photos

- ◎ The first photograph **shows** ...
- ◎ In the second photo...
- ◎ In the foreground/background you can see ...

# Comparing the photographs

- ⦿ Both pictures (are about being)...
- ⦿ I think the common theme here is ...
- ⦿ Both pictures depict...
- ⦿ Both of the photos show...



# Contrasting

- ◎ **In contrast**, the people in the second photo look worried.
- ◎ **On the other hand**, the scene looks much more modern.
- ◎ **Unlike** the first photo, this looks like a happy occasion.
- ◎ The main difference between the two photos is that...
- ◎ In the first picture... whereas the other picture...

# Personal feelings

- ◎ I think I'd prefer... as...
- ◎ Personally I...
- ◎ If I had chosen I would...
- ◎ The first photo **reminds me of** my own childhood.
- ◎ I wouldn't like to **be in their shoes.**

# Gain Time

- ⦿ What I really mean is that ...
- ⦿ I take that back.
- ⦿ What I am trying to say is that ...
- ⦿ Let me see...
- ⦿ Well...
- ⦿ What I meant to say was...