HOW TO DESCRIBE A PICTURE?

1. Focus on the main part of the picture at the beginning.

This is a picture of a group of ambulance staff who are trying to help a person/casualty/patient.

This photo expresses / shows a bad accident happened to a motor-biker.

Then look at the picture for more details. What can you see in the picture? Here is some language you can use:

- In the picture I can see two cars and a motorbike.

- There's / There are … There isn't a … / There aren't any …

- The photo/picture shows an accident.

- It was taken by/in …

- It's a black-and-white/coloured photo.

Say what is happening with the present continuous tense to describe the actions.

- The policeman and a man with a camera are watching the scene carefully.

2. What is where in the picture?

- In the foreground/background there is …

- At the top/bottom of the picture …

- At the bottom on the left hand side / on the left on the right hand side there seems to be …

- In the middle/centre of the picture we can see the scene of the accident.

- On the left/right of the picture there's a man holding a camera.

- Next to/in front of /behind/near/on top of /between /under…we can see…

3. What do you think about the picture?

Remember this is a picture so you cannot be 100% sure what is happening. Use appropriate language to show you are making **some deductions** by using the clues. **Speculate** about the pictures. You are not asked simply to describe what is happening.

It looks like a reporter is recording what is happening.	I (don't) like the picture because …
It seems as if the man/woman isn't badly injured.	It makes me think of …
The lady seems to …	It reminds me of an accident I had years ago.
Maybe …	The man/woman must be in pain.
I think / In my opinion they will take her/him to the hospital soon.	Modal verbs of deduction: she must / can't / might be …
The atmosphere is peaceful/depressing …	This accident might be shown on TV/the news.
It seems / appears to me that … I think / believe / am sure that …	The problem here is …

DOs	DON'Ts
Look at your picture carefully and take a few seconds to think before you start talking.	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 if you know
Talk for all the time you are given. If you have one minute to do the task, use every second.	Don't get distracted and start talking about something else. Focus on the photo.
Practise the useful language above so you can explain which part of the picture you are talking about.	Don't panic if your mind goes blank. Take a deep breath, look at the picture and start again.
It is best to think about the WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY HOW of the picture.	Don't use simple sentences with very basic structures. Do your best to show your progress.