

HOW TO DESCRIBE A PICTURE

1. WHAT KIND OF PICTURE IS IT?



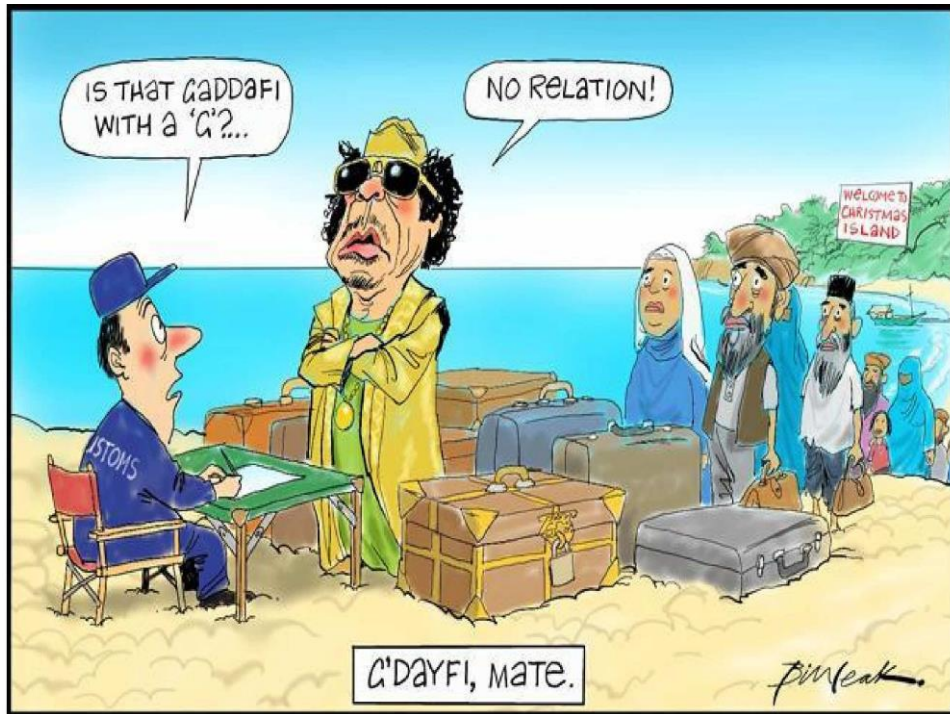
2. WHAT SHOULD YOU MENTION?

- Do not focus on irrelevant details.
- Give an overall impression, and then examine individual items.

PEOPLE (who?)	SETTING (where?)	ACTION (what?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gender • age • facial expression • job • clothes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • country • building • historical era • ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the present continuous to describe activities

3. SOME EXAMPLES

Source: <http://unswict.wikispaces.com/file/view/Visual+Techniques.pdf>



What is the message of the cartoon? What is the meaning of Gaddafi's body language? How has the cartoonist commented on Australia's migration policy?



Explain how the picture has been used to convey a message about saving water.
How does the advertisement appeal to you personally?



Why and how has humour been used in this advertisement?



How has parody been used in this picture?

4. USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

What is in the picture?

In the picture

The picture was taken in... (place)

The picture shows... (place, person, scene)

There's / There are ...

There isn't a ... / There aren't any ...

Say what is happening (present continuous!)

The man is ...ing

The people are ...ing

It's raining.

Where in the picture?

At the top/bottom of the picture ...

In the middle of the picture ...

On the left/right of the picture ...

In the foreground / background

next to

in front of

behind

near

on top of

under

If something isn't clear

It looks like a ...

It might be a ...

He could be ...ing

Maybe it's a ...