DESCRIBING &
COMPARING PICTURES

FCE – speaking

Cambridge

English Qualifications

Prepare 1: Useful vocabulary

Your speaking task is assessed partly for 'Discourse management'. This refers to how clearly your ideas are organised and expressed, how fluently you speak and if you are responding directly to the photos and the question that you have been given (instead of talking about something else!).

Here are some useful expressions to help you with this. Can you put them in the right categories?

In the second picture, we can see…

As for the question…*

Rather than…

In the first/second picture, there's…

He/she seems to be…

To begin with, …

In both cases…

The first picture is…

…whereas…

The most obvious difference is…

Overall, …

…while…

For the first/second picture…

It looks as though…

Organising your response	Describing the photos	Comparing the photos
Bonus task: Which expression signals that the speaker is now specifically answering the *question* which the examiner asked?	**Bonus task:** Which expressions are used to describe something that is very clear in the photos? Which expressions are used to speculate about something which is *not* totally clear from the photos?	**Bonus task:** Which expressions are used to refer to similarities and which are used to refer to differences? Which expression could be used for both?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Prepare 2: Use position language

IN THE TOP LEFT (-HAND) CORNER	AT THE TOP	IN THE TOP RIGHT (-HAND) CORNER	OF THE PICTURE
ON THE LEFT (-HAND) SIDE	IN THE MIDDLE	ON THE RIGHT (-HAND) SIDE	
IN THE BOTTOM LEFT (-HAND) CORNER	AT THE BOTTOM	IN THE BOTTOM RIGHT (-HAND) CORNER	
IN THE BACKGROUND FOREGROUND			

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Prepare 3: Use the present continuous to describe what's happening in the picture

LIVEWORKSHEETS