

Name: _____

Class/form: _____

Date: _____

Useful phrases describing a picture / interpreting a cartoon

The beginning of your description

- The situation is at ... / the situation is near...
- The picture / painting / cartoon introduces us / the viewer / the spectator to ...
- In the / this picture / painting / photo / cartoon / illustration we see / come upon (stoßen auf) / catch a glimpse of ... (flüchtigen Eindruck von etw. bekommen)
- We / the viewer come(s) upon a strange / unusual / beautiful sight of / view (Ansicht) of...
- The picture / cartoon / gives / presents / conveys (vermittelt) a view / a glimpse of...

For the middle of your description of a picture or painting etc. pp.

positions: in the middle / in the centre

at the top / at the bottom

on the left / on the right

in the top right-hand corner

in the bottom left-hand corner

in the background / in the foreground

- In the foreground / on the left... there is / there are...
- In the foreground we can see / come in sight of (erblicken) / catch a sight of / get a good view of / have a fine / shocking view of...
- The picture / scene is dominated (wird beherrscht) by a / two / three groups of people / objects / elements ...
- The group on the left / on the right is standing near / at / next to...
- The group ... moves towards ... / moves in the direction of ...
- The group ... looks at / up to / down from ...
- Behind X we see / there is / there are / there goes / runs Y.
- In front of X we see / there is / there are / there goes / runs Y.
- To the right / left of (rechts von / links von) X we see / there is / there are / there goes / runs Y.
- To the back of X we see / there is / there are / there goes / runs Y.

For the end of your description of a picture or painting etc. pp.

- In the background there is ... / there are ...
- From left to right there is / there are ...
- From below to above (von unten nach oben) the picture is dominated by ...
- The general impression we / the viewer get(s) is that of peaceful togetherness / violent uproar / an idyllic scenery ...

Name: _____

Class/form: _____

Date: _____

Intention / message:

- The artist wants to show / explain /
- The cartoonist / artist wants to convey the message / idea that ... /
- The picture conveys the impression that...
- An element of the photo / painting has the effect that... / indicates or represents sth.
- The artist creates an atmosphere of ... / The photo appeals to me... / touches me ... / leaves me cold /
- In my opinion, the picture is effective / convincing...

When describing what people are doing in a picture use the present progressive.

Cartoons (Jochen Lueders) under: <http://www.jochenenglish.de/>

In my opinion the cartoon is supposed to ...

Meiner Meinung nach soll die Karikatur ...

cartoon: a funny drawing in a newspaper or magazine, especially about politicians or events in the news

The cartoonist may want to convey that ...

Der Karikaturist will vielleicht vermitteln, dass

to convey: to communicate or express something without saying it directly

His message might be that ...

Seine Botschaft könnte sein, dass ...

message: the main or most important idea that someone is trying to tell people about in a film, book, speech etc

Perhaps his intention is to show that ...

Vielleicht ist es seine Absicht zu zeigen, dass

The cartoon implies that ...

Die K. deutet daraufhin / impliziert, dass ...

to imply: to suggest something without saying it directly

At first glance one might think that ...

Auf den ersten Blick könnte man meinen, dass

at first glance: when you first look at something

but a closer analysis shows that ...

aber eine genauere Analyse zeigt, dass ...

You could draw the conclusion that ...

Man könnte den Schluss ziehen, dass ...

to refer to ... / a reference to ...

sich beziehen auf ... / ein Hinweis auf ...

to allude to an event / an allusion to sth.

auf ein Ereignis anspielen / Anspielung auf etwas

to allude: to mention something or someone indirectly

Name: _____

Class/form: _____

Date: _____

Cartoons (Jochen Lueders) under: <http://www.jochenenglish.de/>

a speech bubble / thought bubble

eine Sprechblase / Gedankenblase

speech bubble: the circle around the words said by someone in a cartoon

a funny caption

eine komische Bildunterschrift

caption: the words printed below a picture or cartoon

on the (visual) surface

auf der (visuellen) Oberfläche

on the figurative / symbolic level

auf der übertragenen / symbolischen Ebene

X stands for / symbolizes ...

X steht für / symbolisiert ...

to exaggerate character traits

Charaktereigenschaften übertreiben

a slight / gross exaggeration

eine leichte / grobe Übertreibung

a satirical description (of)

eine satirische Beschreibung (von)

to satirize sth.

etwas satirisch darstellen

to satirize: to use satire to make people see sb.'s faults

to criticize the behaviour of politicians

das Verhalten von Politikern kritisieren

to criticize: to express disapproval of someone or something

critical (towards) / sharp criticism (of)

kritisch (gegenüber) / scharfe Kritik (an)

an outspoken critic (of)

ein freimütiger Kritiker (von)

outspoken: expressing your opinions honestly and directly, even when doing this might annoy some people

to disapprove of sth. / strong disapproval (of)

etwas missbilligen / starke Ablehnung (von)

to disapprove: to think that someone or something is bad or morally wrong

to make fun of / to poke fun at sb./sth.

sich über jemand/etwas lustig machen

to ridicule sb.

jemand lächerlich machen

to ridicule: to laugh at a person, idea etc and say that they are stupid

heavy sarcasm

beißender Sarkasmus

sarcasm: a way of speaking or writing that involves saying the opposite of what you really mean in order to make an unkind joke or to show that you are annoyed

to make a sarcastic comment (on)

einen sarkastischen Kommentar machen