

Build your vocabulary - Describing a picture

**Describing a picture**

With these activities you will learn how to describe a picture. You may need to describe a picture in your writing exam so this is very important practice! You will also use adjectives.

A good way to start your description is with this sentence: *"This is a picture of a ....."*

Before you describe any picture, look at it carefully and answer these questions:

- 1) Where do you think this is?
- 2) Who do you think the people are?
- 3) What are the people doing?

Try with this picture:



So now we can complete the first sentence to describe the picture:

*This is a picture of a supermarket.*

In these activities, we are going to describe what we see in this picture. In this particular picture you can learn some useful vocabulary about shopping and paying at the check-out, but overall, the aim of these activities is to teach you how to describe **any** picture so you are ready for your exam.

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**Activity 1**

Start by learning some words in this picture. All the words in this activity are nouns. Nouns are things and people. For example: a supermarket, a shop, a basket, a woman.

Match the word to the picture

| Word           | Image                                                                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Badge          |     |
| Shelves        |    |
| Customers      |   |
| Till           |  |
| Trolley        |  |
| Shop Assistant |  |
| Bag            |  |
| Apron          |   |

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### Activity 2

Adjectives are words that describe nouns. For example: a **BIG** supermarket, a **SMALL** shop, a **HEAVY** basket, a **BEAUTIFUL** woman.

When you describe a picture, you can use adjectives to make your writing more interesting. In this exercise you will match nouns and adjectives together.

Match the noun to the adjective.

| Adjectives         | Nouns          |
|--------------------|----------------|
| happy              | badge          |
| a shopping         | shelves        |
| a helpful          | customers      |
| a blue             | till           |
| wooden             | trolley        |
| a busy             | shop assistant |
| a plastic or paper | bag            |
| a name             | apron          |

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### Activity 3

When you describe a picture, remember a good way to start is: *This is a picture of ....*

Then you can say how many people are in the picture, what clothes they are wearing and how they are feeling, for example: do they seem happy, sad, angry?

What are the people doing? And where are they? You can use words like BEHIND, NEXT TO, IN FRONT OF to describe where people and things are in the picture.

In this exercise you can read a description of the picture, but some words are missing ...

Fill the gaps with the missing words. You can choose from:

|          |         |           |                |
|----------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| shopping | shelves | customers | shop assistant |
| paper    | blue    | badge     | till           |
| happy    | busy    | bags      |                |

This is a picture of a supermarket. The till is very \_\_\_\_\_ today. There are four \_\_\_\_\_ in the picture. A woman and her daughter are standing behind a \_\_\_\_\_ trolley. They are smiling and look \_\_\_\_\_. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ bag in the shopping trolley. The helpful \_\_\_\_\_ is working at the till. He is wearing a \_\_\_\_\_ apron and a name \_\_\_\_\_. Another woman is paying for her shopping at the \_\_\_\_\_. There are some \_\_\_\_\_ bags at the end of the till to pack away the shopping. There are some wooden \_\_\_\_\_ behind the till.



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**Activity 4:**

**Look at these sentences about the picture. Are they all correct?**

**Write T for True or F for False next to each sentence.**

This is a picture of a supermarket.

The till is very busy today.

The shop assistant is wearing a name badge.

The customers are very helpful.

The customers are wearing a blue apron.

In the shopping trolley, there is a plastic bag.

The customers are happy.

Behind the till, there are plastic shelves.

At the end of the till, there are plastic bags to pack away your shopping.

**Activity 5**

Now that you have found the missing words, put the sentences in the correct order in this next activity.

supermarket This a is a picture of a .

---

busy The till is today very busy.

---

four there are customers in picture the.

---

a shopping trolley A woman and her are daughter standing behind.

---

They are happy and look smiling.

---



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trolley is a bag paper in the shopping there.

---

The the shop helpful at assistant is working till.

---

blue He wearing a apron and a is name badge.

---

Another for her shopping at the till woman is paying.

---

at the end There are some of the till to pack away the plastic bags shopping.

---

There are shelves behind some wooden the till.

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### Activity 6

Finally, look at the nouns and adjectives you learnt in Activities 1 & 2 again and at the picture again.

Read the sentences and answer the questions or fill the gap with the missing word.

You must spell the word correctly.

The shop assistant is wearing this. It has his name on it. \_\_\_\_\_

The shop assistant is wearing this. It's blue. \_\_\_\_\_

This person is very helpful. \_\_\_\_\_

There are 4 of these in the picture. They're buying things. \_\_\_\_\_

Everyone is smiling because they are ... \_\_\_\_\_

There are lots of people in the supermarket so the till is very ... \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of the till there are plastic ... \_\_\_\_\_

The woman and her daughter are standing behind the shopping ... \_\_\_\_\_

In the shopping trolley, there is a bag made of ... \_\_\_\_\_

Behind the till, there are some wooden ... \_\_\_\_\_

