

Oral Communication in English

Useful Expressions for Speaking Tasks, Opinions,
Descriptions, Reformulations, Comparisons

María López Rubio





Giving Opinions

In my opinion...

I believe that...

Personally, I think...

From my point of view...

As far as I'm concerned...

It seems to me that...

Example:

In my opinion, technology plays a vital role in education.

Describing Pictures

- Start with:
This picture shows...
In the photo, I can see...
There is/are...
In the background/foreground...
On the left/right...
- Speculating:
It might be...
They could be...
Maybe they are...
It seems like...

Example:

In the photo, I can see a group of people sitting around a table. They might be having a meeting.

Rephrasing or Reformulating

Useful expressions:

In other words...

Let me put it another way...

What I mean is...

To put it differently...

Basically...

Example:

It's important to protect nature. In other words, we should take care of the environment.

Comparing Two Images

- Start with:

Both pictures show...

In picture A..., whereas in picture B...

Unlike picture A, picture B...

The main difference is...

Picture A seems to..., while picture B...

Example:

Both pictures show people working. However, picture A is in an office, whereas picture B is outside.

Expressing Uncertainty or Guessing

Useful expressions:

I'm not sure, but...

It could be...

Maybe...

Perhaps...

It looks like...

Example:

I'm not sure, but it could be a university classroom.

Structuring Your Speaking

- Organize your ideas:

First of all...

Then...

After that...

Finally...

- Add connectors:

Also, however, although, because, so, for example...

Example:

First of all, I will describe the picture. Then, I will compare it with the second one.

Final Tips

- Use a variety of expressions
- Don't memorize full answers. Practice flexibility!
- Speak clearly and at a natural pace
- Avoid long pauses. Use fillers like “Let me think...”, “Well...”