

## TOEIC® SPEAKING TEST QUESTIONS 3-4: DESCRIBE A PICTURE

### VOCAB REVIEW

### STRATEGY 2: USE SPECULATIVE LANGUAGE

⊙ **Learn useful phrases to indicate that you are speculating, when you express your opinion.**

In describing a picture, if you aren't 100 % sure of where, who, or what, use uncertain and speculative language.

- Use adverbs such as 'probably', 'maybe', 'perhaps', 'most likely'
- Add 'I think', 'or something'..
- Add 'about', 'approximately' or 'around' before figures.
- Use such verbs as 'appear', 'look', 'seem'
- We can use modal auxiliary verbs such as 'could', 'may', or 'might'.
- Start with 'In my opinion', 'In my view'.
- We can use adjectives: it is likely that, it is possible that

I'm not sure, but ... / They seem to be taking part in ... / This picture seems to be a scene of ... = It can ( could or might) be a scene of ... / It's not very clear but probably ... / I can't quite make it out, but perhaps ...  
He is probably an athlete because she looks fit.

Use grammatically correct language.

×He looks like happy. → He looks happy. 'look + adjective'

It looks (to me) like a toy house. (=be similar to)

The girl looks as if (or as though) she is in her late teens.

### Exercise

Complete the following sentences with uncertain and speculative language.

- He is ..... a doctor.
- ..... the photo shows a mall.
- They are ..... in an audio classroom.
- They ..... be studying a foreign language.
- ..... they are playing a game, .....
- He ..... a doctor.
- He ..... sad.
- It ..... they are having a good time.
- He ..... to be writing a letter.

⊙ **Expand your description** to talk about things that are possible in the present, past and future. Things that may be about to happen or have already happened, or things that are probably true, but aren't visible in the picture.

E.g. There is a woman standing in a flower shop. She must be buying a bouquet because she seems to be handing someone something that looks like money. She looks happy because she is smiling. I imagine that she will give the bunch of flowers to someone she likes.

## SAMPLE QUESTION 2

Directions: In this part of the test, you will describe the picture on your screen in as much detail as you can. You will have 45 seconds to prepare your response. Then you will have 30 seconds to speak about the picture.



## RESPONSE TIME

00:00:30

## DICTATION

1. An ..... is a covered walk with stores along one or both sides.
2. A ..... is a very tall building, usually designed for office and commercial use.
3. He is ..... against the railing.
4. They had his coffin ..... with a union flag at his funeral.
5. A wall ..... is a light fixture affixed to the wall.
6. A ..... , commonly called a four-poster bed, features a tall post at each corner that supports a covering made of material or netting.

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