

Useful expressions to know for the oral



- **When and after arriving :**

- Good morning / Good afternoon madam / Sir
- Here's my identity card and notification of exam.
- Where shall I sit down?

- **Starting to speak about the document :**

- I've chosen this document because I feel more attracted to it.
- I've chosen this document because it appeals to me more.
- I've chosen this document because I'm interested in the topic dealt with.

- **Looking for your vocabulary and giving yourself time to think :**

- Hum, well... how shall I put it?
- Now what's the word?
- I know the word but it's just on the tip of my tongue.
- Er, ... let me see / think ...
- Well, what I mean is ...
- Well, you know, what I'm trying to say is ...
- You see, ... / you know ...
- In other words, what I want to say is that ...
- Anyway, the point is ...



- **Asking for help**

It's better to avoid asking for any word you'd need but just in case of emergency, please ask for one term only. Any examiner doesn't like repetitive requests from candidates.

- Sorry but what is the English for « »?

Don't hesitate yet to ask your examiner to repeat or speak slowly instead of remaining motionless, expressionless and quiet after a question you don't understand.

- Sorry but could you speak more slowly please?
- Could you repeat your question please? I didn't understand everything.

- I'm sorry but I can't understand what you're asking me.
- Sorry but I don't understand the word « ... ».
- I'm sorry but I'm not sure to understand your question.



- Giving one's opinion :

- Personally, I'd tend to think that ...
- I think that ...
- I don't agree with him / her / the cartoonist / the photographer / the person who wrote this / the idea expressed here.
- To my mind, ...
- In my opinion, ...
- I totally agree with him / her / the cartoonist / the photographer / the person who wrote this / the idea expressed here.
- There are pros and cons.
- I think we should find the happy medium.

- The picture in itself :

Let's first remember that if the picture is supposed to be just a pretext for you to speak in English, it's not that easy for you not to describe and analyze it.

Anyway, here are some tips for you :

→ the various types of pictures :

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| - a cartoon | - a strip cartoon / comic strip (with... frames) |
| - a photo (don't use the word 'photography') | - a painting |
| - a magazine cover / a book cover | - an ad / advert / advertisement |
| - a poster | - a montage |

→ mentioning the origin, the author and the date of the document :

- this document comes from ...
- it was published in ... ⚠ (Be careful the French « U » sound doesn't exist in English!)
- it is an ad / advert / advertisement for...
- it was painted by ... / taken by ... / made by ... / drawn by ...
- We can / can't read the name of the cartoonist / painter / photographer / the advertiser. (If you know anything about this person, please don't hesitate to say what you know)
- The document dates from ... ⚠ ex : 1992 = nineteen ninety-two / 2008 = two thousand and eight

ex : the last century / the 20 th century (*the twentieth*)

The 19th century (*the nineteenth*), the 18th century (*the /I/, eighteenth*)

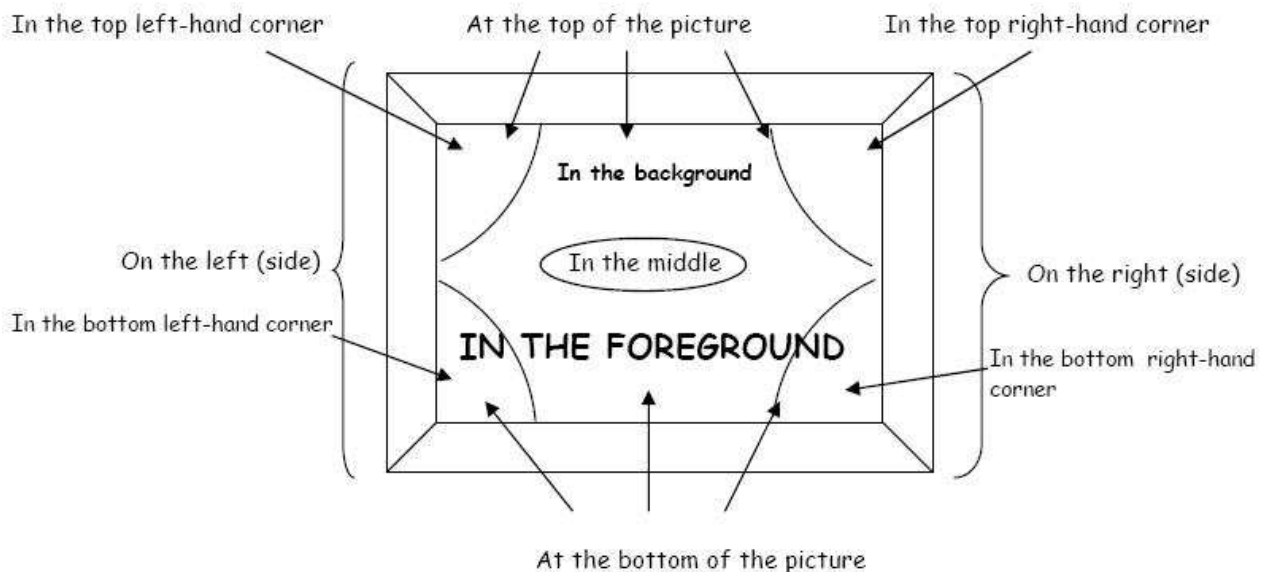
ex : _ last month, _last year ⚠ (no article contrary to the French expression « du mois dernier », « de l'année dernière

→ general representation of the document :

- What we've got here is a country scene / an urban landscape
- The scene takes place indoors / outdoors
- It consists of. . . / It is composed of. . . / It is made up of . . .
- It is a close-up / a long shot / a medium shot / a low angle shot / a high angle shot
- There is a title / a caption / a slogan / a bubble / (speech) balloon
- It shows. . . / represents . . .
- There are two / three / several characters ...
- There is just one character.
- The scene takes place in / The scene seems to be set in ...
- It is (clearly) divided into ...parts. (*Very often, you can distinguish the various parts in a picture*)

→ situating an element in the picture :

- general layout :



- Some useful prepositions :

Go to these links and thanks to Jennifer, an esl teacher, you'll be able to learn or study your prepositions again. (*Of course, you'll find these videos on the blog too :*

<http://lewebpedagogique.com/helpdesk/> and I'll give you a list of prepositions as well.)

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaXTyFtQx9o&NR=1>

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHmOHhl7saQ&eurl=http://www.anglaisfacile.com/cgi2/myexam/print.php?monsite=af>

→ Here are the links for you to train on line :

- <http://www.anglaisfacile.com/exercices/exercice-anglais-2/exercice-anglais-3435.php>
- <http://www.anglaisfacile.com/exercices/exercice-anglais-2/exercice-anglais-17143.php>
- Nice activities with images :
<http://www.anglaisfacile.com/exercices/exercice-anglais-2/exercice-anglais-35824.php>
<http://www.anglaisfacile.com/exercices/exercice-anglais-2/exercice-anglais-42409.php>
- This last one with a nice drawing for you to understand better + an activity :
<http://www.anglaisfacile.com/exercices/exercice-anglais-2/exercice-anglais-27620.php>

→ Don't forget to describe the characters, the objects and the setting :

- The characters : speak about their clothes, expressions, attitudes (are they standing / sitting / lying. . .) what they are doing / must be doing.
- the objects : their shape and size (*round, big, small, square, rectangular, out of proportion, magnified, reduced ...*)
- **Don't hesitate then to speak about the topic or general issue raised in your document** (as a branching out or even second part of the body of your oral)
 - Then go back to "giving one's opinion" page 1 to find the necessary tool to speak with your examiner (+ "asking for help" in case of need)



- **To conclude :**

→ Final linkwords :

- To finish with / Eventually / To conclude / In conclusion (Please avoid ~~as a~~ conclusion)
- Finally / Last but not least
- I suppose that
- We can infer / deduce / conclude that ...
- I think the *cartoonist's aim / goal is to ... (* the person can be an author, a drawer, a photographer and so on ...)
- She / he wants to stress the fact that ... / to highlight / illustrate / show / prove / denounce / support...
- The message conveyed here is ...
- This document, somehow, reminds me of + Noun / It looks like + Noun
- I like / dislike this document because ... / as ... / since ...
- I found or didn't find this document convincing because ...
- It's a strange / funny / beautiful / effective document as ...

- **When leaving :**

- May I leave?
- Shall I let the next candidate in?
- Goodbye madam / Sir

