

Unit 4 – Describing things and places

Warm-up

IT'S BLACK AND WHITE

DESCRIBING
THINGS

WARM-UP EXERCISES

EXERCISE 1

Write one or two sentences in the empty speech balloon.



Warm-up

- It is made of leather.
-
-

How to describe things / objects

- Most of the time in speaking English, we need to describe things that we do not know the specific names of each objects in English. To describe, we can use different words to make such descriptions based on:

- **Material**

- **Shape**

- **Opinion**

- **Function**

- **Color**

- **Size**

- **Age**

Materials in English

- brick
- rubber
- clay
- gold
- iron
- marble
- paper
- silver
- stone
- wool
- copper
- fiberglass
- cotton
- glass
- leather
- plastic
- silk
- steel
- wood
- wax

Materials in English (cont)

What is it made of?

- It is made from plastic.
- It is made from metal.
- It is made from wood.
- It is made from fabric.
- It is made from rubber.
- It is made from paper

Colors in English

- Black

- Blue

- Yellow

- Orange

- Purple

- Grey

- White

- Red

- Green

- Brown

- Turquoise

Shapes in English

Check this list of the most common vocabulary to describe things based on its shape

triangular

rectangular

square

circular

round

Example:

What does your bag look like?

It is rectangular.

Sizes in English

Check this list of the most common vocabulary to describe things based on its size

small

big

medium

large

huge

tiny

Example:

How big is it?

It's so big.

Opinions in English

This vocabulary to help describe objects based on opinion

nice
strange

ugly
excellent

Age in English

There are some words to describe things in English taking into account how new or old they are.

old
ancient

new
historic

Functions

It usually refers to the actions that can be done by the objects. However, the sentence will be in passive forms as objects cannot do the actions themselves.

Pattern to speak: It is used for + v(ing). It is used to + V (infinitive)

Example:

It is used for boiling water.

It is used to keep you dry.

It is used to tell the time.

Practice 2

EXERCISE 2



Practice the following conversation with a partner. (Take turns as the *customer* and the *waitress*.)

Customer: Excuse me, I left my briefcase under my table, and—

Waitress: When was that?

Customer: This morning—about thirty minutes ago.

Waitress: What does it look like?

Customer: It's brown and it has a black handle.

Waitress: Oh, yes. Does it have a combination lock?

Customer: Yes, it does.

Waitress: Right, the bus boy found it. Wait here, I'll get it.



Practice 2 (cont)

Describing lost items:

- It is brown and it has a black handle.
- It have a combination lock
- It isrectangular.
- It is made of plastic.
-
-

Practice 3

EXERCISE 3

Practice the conversation a few more times with your partner. Each time, describe one of the objects below.

VOCABULARY

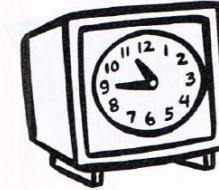
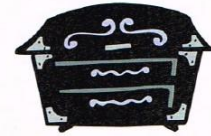
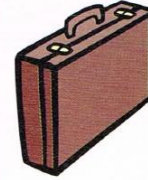


Memo

- ALWAYS LOOK AT THE PERSON YOU ARE SPEAKING TO-DONT LOOK DOWN AT THE TEXT!
- YOU CAN ALSO DESCRIBE OTHER OBJECTS.

Listening task (exercise 1)

LISTENING TASK



EXERCISE 1

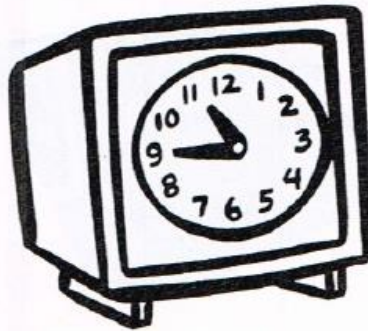
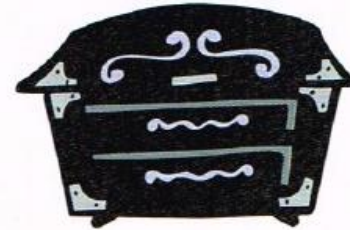
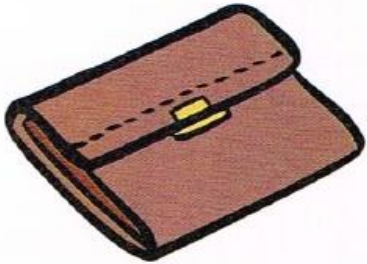
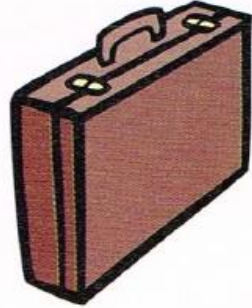
Look at each sentence in the box (a through o) and write the letter below each object that it describes.

- a. It's made of leather.
- b. It has a handle.
- c. It's black.
- d. It has buttons.
- e. It's made mostly of plastic.

- f. It has a little plastic window.
- g. It's brown.
- h. It's plain, with almost no design.
- i. It has batteries.
- j. It has switches.

- k. It has a strap.
- l. There are numbers on it.
- m. It has a lock.
- n. It's made of wood.
- o. It's square.

Listening task (exercise 1)



PAIR WORK

Student A:

Choose any eight objects in the picture below.

- Write the numbers 1 through 8 on the objects.
- Then describe each object to *Student B*.

Student B:

Listen to *Student A* describe eight objects.
Write the number on each object (1 through 8).
Ask questions to check!



GROUP WORK

Do this exercise in a group of three or four students.

Student A:

Choose one object in the room below, but don't say which object it is. *Students B, C, and D* will ask you questions to find out which object it is. Answer all questions with "Yes" or "No."

Students B, C, & D:

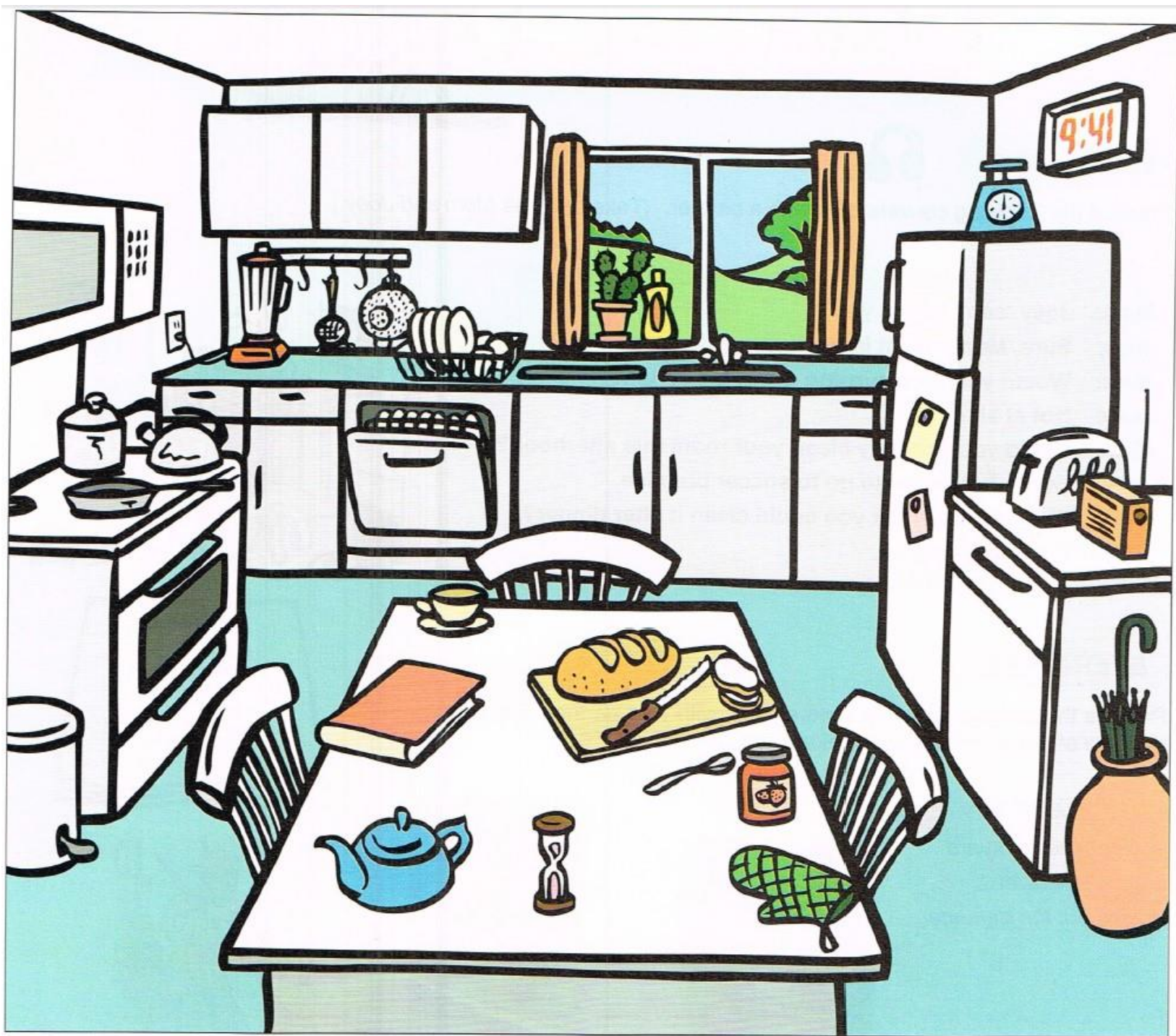
Take turns asking *Student A* "yes/no" questions. Try to guess *Student A's* object. Whoever guesses the object first wins. *If no one can guess it, Student A wins!*
The group can ask twenty questions—and each student can make three guesses.

Memo

- DO THIS EXERCISE SEVERAL TIMES—EACH STUDENT TAKES A TURN AS STUDENT A.

"Yes/no" Questions

- *Is it small?*
- *Does it have a handle?*
- *Is it made of plastic?*



How to describe places

- In describing places, adjectives play an important role just like describing things, or even people. The places can also be described based on the followings; however, opinions would be mostly used to describe how the place is:

- Material
- Shape
- **Opinion**
- Function
- Color
- Size
- Age

Descriptions of places

- **ancient** (place that has long history)
ex: Yaring is an ancient city.
- **beautiful**
ex: YRU inn is very beautiful inside and outside of the building
- **boring**
ex: Taladmai is a boring place to visit.
- **bustling** (crowded, busy place)
ex: Taladkai is bustling during ramodhon month.
- **charming** (nice, pleasing)
ex: Songkhla has several charming spots for tourists.
- **contemporary** (modern)
ex: A FMS building of yru is contemporary.
- **compact** (small)
ex: Although yru is compact, but it is still fascinating.
- **cosmopolitan** (rich culture and languages)
ex: Bangkok is one of the cosmopolitan city in the world.

Descriptions of places

- **Crowded** (many people)

ex:

- **exciting**

ex:.....

- **expensive**

ex:.....

- **famous**

ex:.....

- **fantastic**

ex:.....

- **fascinating**

.....

- **huge** (very big)

ex:

- **lively** (lots of things going on)

ex:

- **inexpensive** (cheap)

ex:

- **popular**

ex:

- **polluted** (dirty, pollution)

ex:

- **touristy** (visited by lots of tourists)

ex:

How to describe places

When describing places, we need to tell about:

- The name of the places (what it is)
 - A. “This is Yala Central mosque.”
 - B. “This is Pattani walking street.”
 - C. “Here is Kruesu historic mosque.”
- The location (where it is)
 - A. “It is located in Taladkao area Yala town.”
 - B. “It is located in Pattani town on...street name.....Rd.
 - C. “It was built on Krusee village on Petchkaseom Rd.”

How to describe places

- Opinions of each place / what it has (there is, there are)
 - A. “The central mosque is huge among the many mosque in Yala province.”
 - B. “The walking street is very crowded with people doing shopping at a night time.”
 - C. “The mosque is popular among locals as historic place and the story behind.”
- Functions / what it has (There is, there are)
 - A. “Nowadays, people use this mosque for praying 5 times daily.”
 - B. “There are many types of vendors here. Some sell food, and some has clothing.”
 - C. “Locals are still using the mosque for pray every day while the tourists are dropping bye for nice photo shootings.”

Time to practice describing places

- Let's consider taking the place in our campus and describe it.

❖ Student Union

This is a student union building. It is located inside of YRU main campus close to staff dormitory. The building is a bit beautiful but the it may look a little bit old. When there are special activities, many students come here to join.....

Your turn

Think of one place or building in YRU campus that are most familiar it, then describe it in English with your own idea.