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Advanced Vocab for Picture Description

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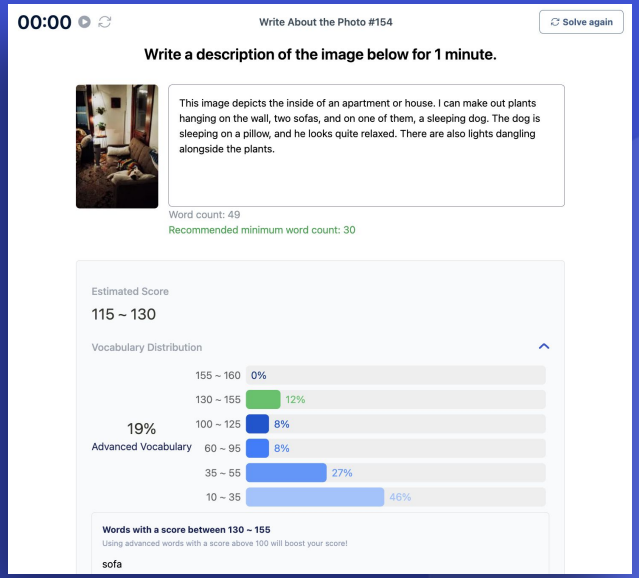


We have a full video lesson that teaches you how to use all of this vocabulary! Watch it here.

Describing location

In the upper
left-hand corner

In the upper
right-hand corner

On the
left-hand side

On the
right-hand side

In the lower
left-hand corner

In the lower
right-hand corner

In the upper left-hand corner, there are tall buildings.

In the upper right-hand corner, there are tall buildings with bright signs.

On the left-hand side, there is a large crowd of people.

On the right-hand side, there is an especially bright sign.

In the lower left-hand corner, there is a square.

In the lower right-hand corner, there is a subway entrance.

In the center

In the distance

In the background

Behind

In the foreground

In front of

In the center is a dancer.

In the distance, there is a bridge.

In the background, there are spectators.

Behind the dancer are spectators.

In the foreground is a dancer.

In front of the spectators is a dancer.

Describing things that you can see clearly

In this image, I see...

This image shows...

This image depicts...

In this image, I see a dancer performing for some spectators.

This image shows a dancer performing for some spectators.

This image depicts a dancer performing for some spectators.

Describing things that you cannot see clearly

I can make out...

It appears that...

There appears to be...

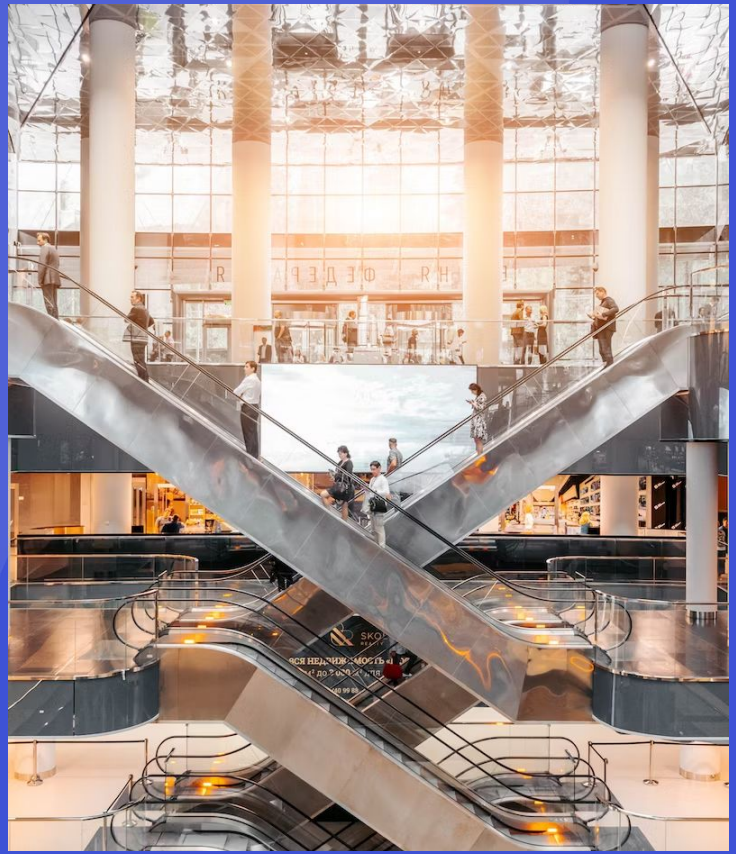
It seems that...

I can make out people sitting at tables.

It appears that there are people sitting at tables.

There appears to be people sitting at tables.

It seems that people are sitting at tables.



It is not clear…

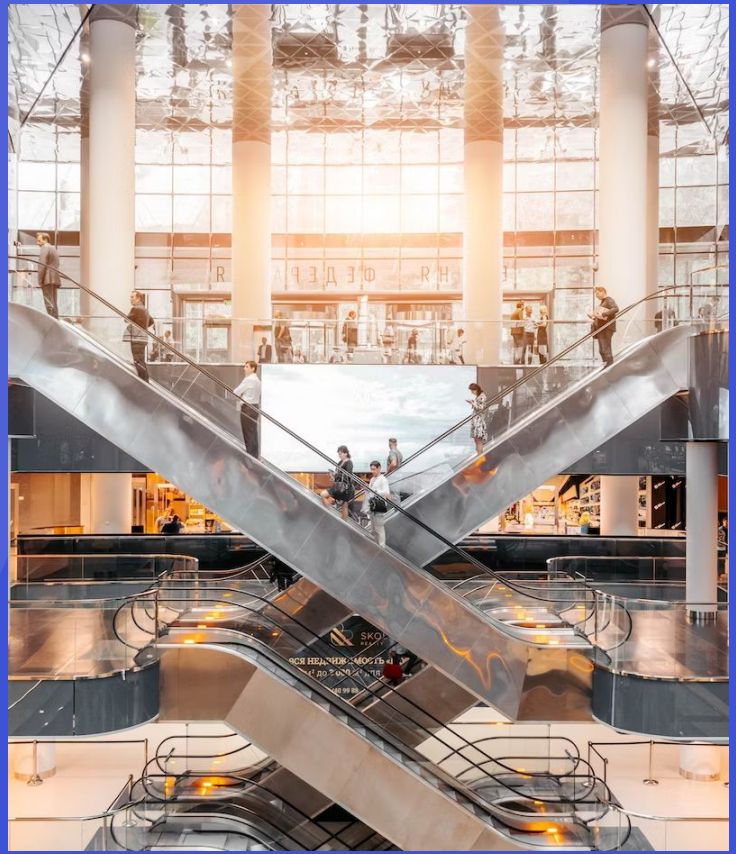
It is difficult to say…

It is difficult to tell…

…whether…or…

Perhaps…

It may be the case that…



It is not clear where this is.

It is difficult to say where this is this.

It is difficult to tell where this is.

It is difficult to tell whether this is an office building or a shopping mall.

Perhaps this is a shopping mall.

It may be the case that this is a shopping mall.

This image shows a woman walking with her bicycle. **In the background**, **I can make out** some items like balloons and toys. **It is difficult to tell** but her bicycle is loaded up with what **appears to be** coconuts in green plastic bags. **It is not clear whether** she is leaving the market **or** arriving to it. It **appears to be** hot because she is wearing a large hat and a scarf to protect herself from the sun.

In this image, I see a worker on a construction site. He is **in the center** of the image and around him is dirt and wood structures. **Behind him, in the upper right-hand corner**, is a large orange dumpster and concrete slabs. **On the right-hand side** of the image, there is also **what appears to be** fresh concrete that is drying. **Perhaps** the man is a supervisor who is inspecting the work to make sure that it was done properly.

This image depicts a quiet street. The sun is intense and **in the distance**, the sky is bright blue, so **it seems that** it is midday. The house **on the left-hand side** is stone, but the other houses are painted vibrant colors. **It appears that** this is a residential street because there are clothes hanging out to dry.