



PHOTOGRAPHY

"There are no bad pictures; that's just how your face looks sometimes."

Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865), 16th American President

1. Photography Discussion

1. Are you interested in photography? What kind of photos do you like looking at?
2. Do you think you take a good photo? What are some of the best photographs you have taken? When do you usually take photos? What do you usually take photos of?
3. Do you have a camera? Can you describe it? Is it better to have a separate camera or just to use the one on your phone?
4. Have you ever been to any photography exhibitions? If so, can you describe the exhibition? Did you enjoy it?
5. Do you prefer colour or black and white photography? How are they different?
6. Do you have any photos on display in your house? Can you describe them? Do you have any photo albums?
7. Do you have a special pose for photos? How do you look on your passport photo?
8. Have you seen any embarrassing photos? Have you ever appeared in one?

2. Photography Vocabulary

- **selfie** (noun) – *a photo taken of oneself.*
- **(to) snap** (noun, verb) – *alternative word for picture or photo; to take a photo.*
- **to zoom** (verb) / **zoom lens** (noun) – *to make something far away appear closer than it is; the equipment on a camera to perform the action of zooming.*
- **camera-shy** (adjective) – *describes someone who does not like to have their photo taken.*
- **photogenic** (adjective) – *used to describe someone or something that looks attractive in a photo.*
- **the camera never lies** (saying) – *used to say photos always capture a true image, particularly when people are unhappy with the results.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. The Prime Minister is not usually _____, but following the news of his affair, he's been rather eager to avoid the cameras.
2. In order not to scare the eagle away, Gary used his _____ to capture the image.
3. My wife is angry with me because when she said she looked terrible in our family photo, I made the mistake of saying "_____."
4. Madeline took a _____ in front of the Eiffel Tower but all you can see is her head blocking the view.
5. Brad Pitt is so _____; I've never seen a photo of him looking bad.
6. George took a wonderful _____ of the sun setting over the beach.

Photography vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What do you think of people that take lots of selfies and post them on social media? What stupid things are people doing to take the perfect selfie?
2. What was the last thing you snapped?
3. What would you use a zoom lens for?
4. Do you know anyone who is camera-shy?
5. Who is the most photogenic person you know?
6. Is it true that the camera never lies?

3. Video: How To Take A Great Picture

You are going to watch a video by Joshua Cripps Photography called "How To Take Amazing Photos: 7 Simple & Powerful Photography Tips".

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-photography/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What is the best zoom lens?
a) Nikon b) Cannon c) your legs
2. Once you have chosen a subject for your photo, what should you exaggerate?
a) its characteristics b) its contrasts c) its composition
3. Where should you place the subject of a photo?
a) in the centre b) at the top c) in one of the thirds
4. Where should you position a reflexion?
a) in the centre b) at the top c) in one of the thirds

Sentence completion

5. By having a foreground subject close to the camera and a background subject far away from the camera, you create a _____ and a context for the photo.
6. Taking a photo with a _____ lens makes people think they are standing in the photo.
7. You should connect multiple subjects in a photo with leading _____.
8. You could use a _____ to connect the foreground to the background.

Short answer

9. Our lives are spent looking at things from which perspective?
10. Which time of the day is the worst for taking photos?
11. Which times of the day have the best light for taking photos?
12. Digital cameras are excellent at capturing detail in what?

4. Photography Conversation Questions

1. Do you think you have to be artistic to take a good photo, or can anyone take a good photo these days?
2. Is there a difference between a photographer and someone who simply takes photos?
3. Do you know how to edit photos? If not, is this a skill you would like to have?
4. What do you think of photos that have been edited with software or other filters? Are they always better than the originals? When would it be unacceptable to edit a photo?
5. Do you agree that a picture is worth a thousand words? Why or why not?
6. Do you like photos of different people? Would you be comfortable taking a photo of a random person in the street? How would you feel if someone took a photo of you without your permission?
7. Should people have the right to take a photo of anything they like? What shouldn't they be able to take photos of?
8. In some countries, a person can take a photo of anything and anyone as long as they are in a public place. Do you agree with that?

5. Photography Writing Task

Write about your opinion on various aspects of photography. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What kind of photography you like.
- Whether or not you think anyone can take good photos these days.
- Ethical considerations when taking a photo.

Alternative exam practice question:

In the modern world, where news stories are often accompanied by powerful images, the photograph is a more effective form of communication than the written word. Do you agree or disagree with this?