



Splendid
SPEAKING

LANGUAGE

Topic vocabulary

A scene from the past
The photo shows/portrays
A portrait of
To be facing the camera
To have their backs to the camera
A landscape
In the foreground
In the background
In the distance
In the top right hand corner
Towards/On the left/right
To feel nostalgic
To look back on
To bring back memories

Useful language for speculating

It will/must/might/can't have
Perhaps.../Maybe.../Possibly
I daresay ...
I suppose ...
I imagine ...
I wonder ...?
No doubt ...
It's (un)likely that ...
In all likelihood ...
In all probability ...
I bet ...

RECORDING

Listen to Ekaterina from Bulgaria talking on a similar subject. See the November archives (**Interview 3**) at: splendid-speaking.com

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**SUPPORTING
THIS TASK**

The Splendid Speaking Course

Volume 2 Unit 5: Describing Photographs

Splendid Expressions

'Possibility & Probability'

Unit 3: Days Gone By

Task: Presentation (1-2 minutes)

1. **Introduction:** Read the following extract in preparation for short talk:

A picture of the past

A photography agency is looking for your ideas of life in the past through the eyes of the camera lens. Contributors are invited to choose their own photos to support a short presentation (to last about 2 minutes) speculating on how life has changed.

2. **Planning:** Find photographs to use for your presentation.

Find photographs from a magazine or do a search for 'historical photos' on the Internet to find two or three photos on a similar theme.

3. **Task focus:** Try organising your talk around three main points:

1) Start by describing the general theme of your photos.

Example: 'These photographs all portray people at work and show just how hard life must have been for people at this time'.

2) Then compare and contrast the scenes in each one. Use the language on the left to speculate, for example on what people are thinking or what might be happening.

3) End by reflecting on the scenes with a personal comment.

4. **Language:** Tick any of the language on the left you want to use.

Task: Discussion (15 minutes)

As part of a student panel you've been asked to discuss the following:

- We are far better off as a society today than we were 50 years ago.

Consider the standard of living, family ties, social cohesion, career opportunities etc. During the discussion, try using some of the expressions below to state your opinion.

As far as I'm concerned / I reckon / Well, if you ask me / I often think
I sometimes wonder / In my opinion / I firmly believe / I'm a great believer in