
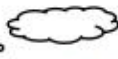


## Interpretation of visual texts - Cartoons



You are already familiar with the visual techniques we use to interpret cartoons, advertisements, graphs, posters and flyers.

Here are some of the terms you need to know to understand cartoons:

- Font: size and type of letters used. Larger or **bold** font is used for emphasis.
- Speech bubbles show the words that someone says. 
- Thought bubbles show what someone is thinking. 
- Not all cartoons use speech or thought bubbles. Some show who is speaking by putting lines of text above the speakers' heads.
- Layout is the plan of the visual text:



- Body language: the way the characters are drawn to show how they feel.

<p>Facial expression</p> 	<p>Key to the character's thoughts, feelings and emotions/ the way the character pulls his/her face to show a certain emotion, like anger, fear, happiness, sadness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think about the emojis you use when you type WhatsApp messages and what each one represents.</li> <li>• Do the expressions change (sequential cartoons)?</li> </ul>
<p>Body language</p> 	<p>The way a character's body shows his/her emotion/reaction/response, like hands on the hips to show impatience, falling asleep during the conversation to show disinterest, etc.</p>

- **Common mistakes:**
    - Using the wrong words to describe the font: most cartoons are written in capital letters, so cartoonists use big or bold letters for emphasis.
    - Not recognising who is speaking.
    - Referring to the wrong frame.
    - **Avoid writing general answers like the following: How do you know that .../ State a visual clue that ...**
      - I see it in the body language.
- Tip: Be specific: WHAT do you see?

☞ hands in the pockets, finger pointing at someone, hands on the hips, arms in the air, hands relaxing on the knees, hand in front of the mouth, face close to the other character's face

☒ I see it in the facial expression.

Tip: Be specific: WHAT do you see?

☞ wide open mouth, eyes wide open, eyes shut firmly, frown on the forehead, mouth turned down, wrinkly mouth

**Study the cartoons below and answer all the set questions.**

**TEXT A**



Note: The girl in this cartoon is called Peppermint Patty.

1.1 Examine the written text and comment on the tone that Peppermint Patty uses in this cartoon.

1.2 How has the cartoonist visually depicted her tone in Frame 1?

1.3 How do you know that Patty did not get her way?

1.4 Comment on the use of ellipsis in Frame 3.

1.5 Do you agree that learners should be excused from taking tests when they are stressed? Substantiate your answer.

TEXT B



Note: The characters are, in order of their first appearance in Frame 1: Eve, Grandma, Madam and Thandi.

1.6 Choose the correct answer **and** explain your choice with close reference to each of the introductions. The tone is each of the frames that introduce the activities is ...

- A ironic
- B sarcastic
- C funny
- D serious.

1.7 Refer to Frame 1.

1.7.1 Why does Madam count in this frame?

1.7.2 Do you think she is excited?

Give a reason for your answer.

1.7.3 Comment on Grandma's reaction in Frame 1.

1.8 How does the cartoonist depict that the rest of the group do not appreciate Grandmother's singing in Frame 3?

1.9 Refer to Frame 5. Do you think the ladies are interested in playing "I spy" with Thandi? Give a reason for your answer.

1.10 Comment on how the cartoonist's message is reinforced in Frame 8.