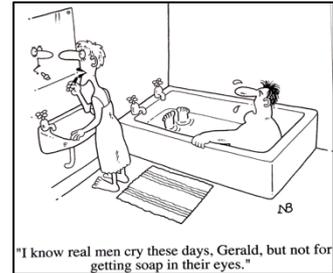




A cartoon usually combines a drawing with a text. Cartoons often pick up on one current news event and criticise people, institutions or developments in society and politics.

Some Cartoons may just be entertaining, often making fun of public figures, but others can make a serious and important critical point simply and clearly using visual means.



Step 1: Introduction

- Give available information on the context (author, date and first publication source).
- Briefly state the issue or target group.

Wörterbank

The cartoon was drawn by ... and it was published/ appeared in (source) on (date).
It was created in response to ...
It shows/deals with/refers to/comments on ...
The cartoonist makes fun of /criticises ... for (doing sth).

Step 2: Description

- Describe the cartoon in detail.
- Include the contents of captions, speech bubbles etc. and their relationship to the picture.

Wörterbank

The cartoon consists of/is made up of (several) /is divided into ...
There is a (short/an ironic) caption/speech bubble/thought bubble in/on/next to ...
The caption says/states that... /is a comment by ...

Step 3: Analysis

- Examine the elements (characters, Objects, text) and explain the message they convey.
- Pay attention to the function of characters (do they represent well-known people or a particular group?) and typical techniques (see tip box).

Wörterbank

The cartoon Stands for/represents/is a caricature of...
The cartoon plays on the stereotypical view of ...
... is exaggerated/stressed/symbolic for...
... reinforces the cartoonist's message that...
The humour lies in the discrepancy/contrast/parallels/ misunderstanding between ... and ...

Step 4: Evaluation

- State whether the cartoon is effective and which elements are responsible for its success/failure.
- Give your personal opinion (if asked) or your thoughts on which topic the picture represents.

Wörterbank

The cartoon (only partly) achieves its aim of (doing sth).
In my opinion, the cartoonist is (not) successful in presenting/criticising ... because...
The cartoon appeals (does not appeal) to me.
In my opinion, it is convincing/simplistic/confusing/unfair.
The cartoonist skilfully/effectively shows ...
Unfortunately, it remains unclear whether... o r ...

focus

TIP

Cartoonists often use the following techniques:

- highlighting prominent features/actions/events by caricature (exaggerating characteristic elements)
- exposing inconsistencies (e.g. contrasting a Statement with a picture showing the opposite)
- irony (depicting the opposite of what is really meant)
- making use of puns or word play
- symbolic elements