



ENGLISH FOR TOUR GUIDES

1. Warm-up Speaking (5–7 minutes)

Activity: Describe & Point

Look at the landmark pictures (Eiffel Tower, pyramids, castle, etc.).

In pairs: One person points to a part of the picture and describes it for 30–45 seconds (use adjectives, historical facts, and why it's special).

The other listens and asks one follow-up question.

Example:

"On your left, you can see the Eiffel Tower. It was built in 1889 for the World's Fair. It's one of the most famous symbols of Paris because..."

Switch roles 2–3 times.

Tip: Use gestures and point — just like a real guide!

2. Key Useful Phrases - Giving Detailed Commentaries

Pronunciation tips - Ancient (AYN-shent)

- Impressive (im-PRES-iv) Feature (FEE-cher)



Pointing out sights on the move

- On your left/right, you'll see...
- Look ahead — that's the famous...
- Coming up on your right is...
- If you look behind us, you can see...

Engaging the group

- Can anyone guess why...?
- Does anyone know how old this is?
- Take a photo now — this is a great spot!

Describing & history

- This landmark was built in [year] by...
- It is known for / famous for...
- One of the most impressive / beautiful / ancient features is...
- Interestingly, ... / Fun fact: ...
- In addition, ... / However, ... / Also, ...

3. Gap-Fill Practice – Sample Commentary

Activity: Complete the Detailed Commentary

Fill in the gaps with words/phrases from the box to make a natural commentary at a landmark.

built / look ahead / known / guess / most / interestingly / addition / on your / famous

"Welcome to the Pyramids of Giza! (1) _____ left, you'll see the Great Pyramid. It was (2) _____ around 2580 BC and is one of the (3) _____ ancient wonders of the world.

It is (4) _____ for its incredible size and mystery — we still don't know exactly how they were constructed!

(5) _____, the pyramids were tombs for pharaohs. (6) _____, there are smaller pyramids around them for queens.

Can anyone (7) _____ why the pyramids are shaped this way?

(8) _____ — the Sphinx is coming up next!"

4. Matching – Commentary Elements

Activity: Match the Phrase to Its Purpose

A. On your left, you'll see the old castle.	Engaging the group
B. It was built in the 14th century by King Edward III.	Pointing out a sight
C. Interestingly, it has a secret tunnel...	Adding extra information
D. Can anyone guess what this statue represents?	History fact
E. In addition, the gardens are beautiful in spring.	Fun / interesting detail

5. Main Speaking Practice – Role-Play (12–15 minutes)

Activity: Give Your Detailed Commentary!

Work in small groups (3–5 people).

Student A = Tour Guide

Others = Tourists

Tour Guide:

Choose a famous landmark (from pictures, the town map, or your own).

Give a 1–2 minute detailed commentary while the group "walks" (stand and move a little).

Include:

- Pointing out sights ("On your right...")
- History & facts
- Fun/interesting details
- One question to engage the group
- Use connectors (also, however, interestingly)

Tourists:

Listen, react (Wow! / Really?), and ask 1–2 follow-up questions at the end.

Example:

"Look ahead — that's Big Ben! It was built in 1859 and is one of the most famous clock towers in the world. Interestingly, the name 'Big Ben' actually refers to the bell inside..."

Switch roles so everyone gets a turn.

Tip: Use the pictures to point at while speaking. Add energy and enthusiasm!

6. Final Warm-down (5 minutes)

Activity: One Highlight

In a circle or quick round.

Each person says **one sentence** about a landmark commentary they heard (positive or interesting).

Example:

"The fun fact about the pyramids was really surprising!"

End with: "Thank you for being such an attentive group!"

Teacher's Key

At this stage, students deliver longer, more informative commentaries at landmarks, using descriptive language, simple past for history, superlatives/comparatives, connectors (also, however, in addition), and anecdotes. They point out sights on the move, engage the group, and handle interruptions.

3. Gap-Fill Practice – Sample Commentary

"Welcome to the Pyramids of Giza! (1) ***On your*** left, you'll see the Great Pyramid. It was (2) ***built*** around 2580 BC and is one of the (3) ***most*** ancient wonders of the world.

It is (4) ***known*** for its incredible size and mystery – we still don't know exactly how they were constructed!

(5) ***Interestingly***, the pyramids were tombs for pharaohs. (6) ***In addition***, there are smaller pyramids around them for queens.

Can anyone (7) ***guess*** why the pyramids are shaped this way?

(8) ***Look ahead*** – the Sphinx is coming up next!"

4. Matching – Commentary Elements

Activity: Match the Phrase to Its Purpose

A. On your left, you'll see the old castle.	History fact
B. It was built in the 14th century by King Edward III.	Pointing out a sight
C. Interestingly, it has a secret tunnel...	Fun / interesting detail
D. Can anyone guess what this statue represents?	Engaging the group
E. In addition, the gardens are beautiful in spring.	Adding extra information

Matching: A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4, E-5

This PDF focuses on fluency in extended speaking, descriptive detail, and group engagement – a solid progression for B1 guides.

Ready for the next one (Answering Difficult/Unexpected Questions), or any adjustments here?