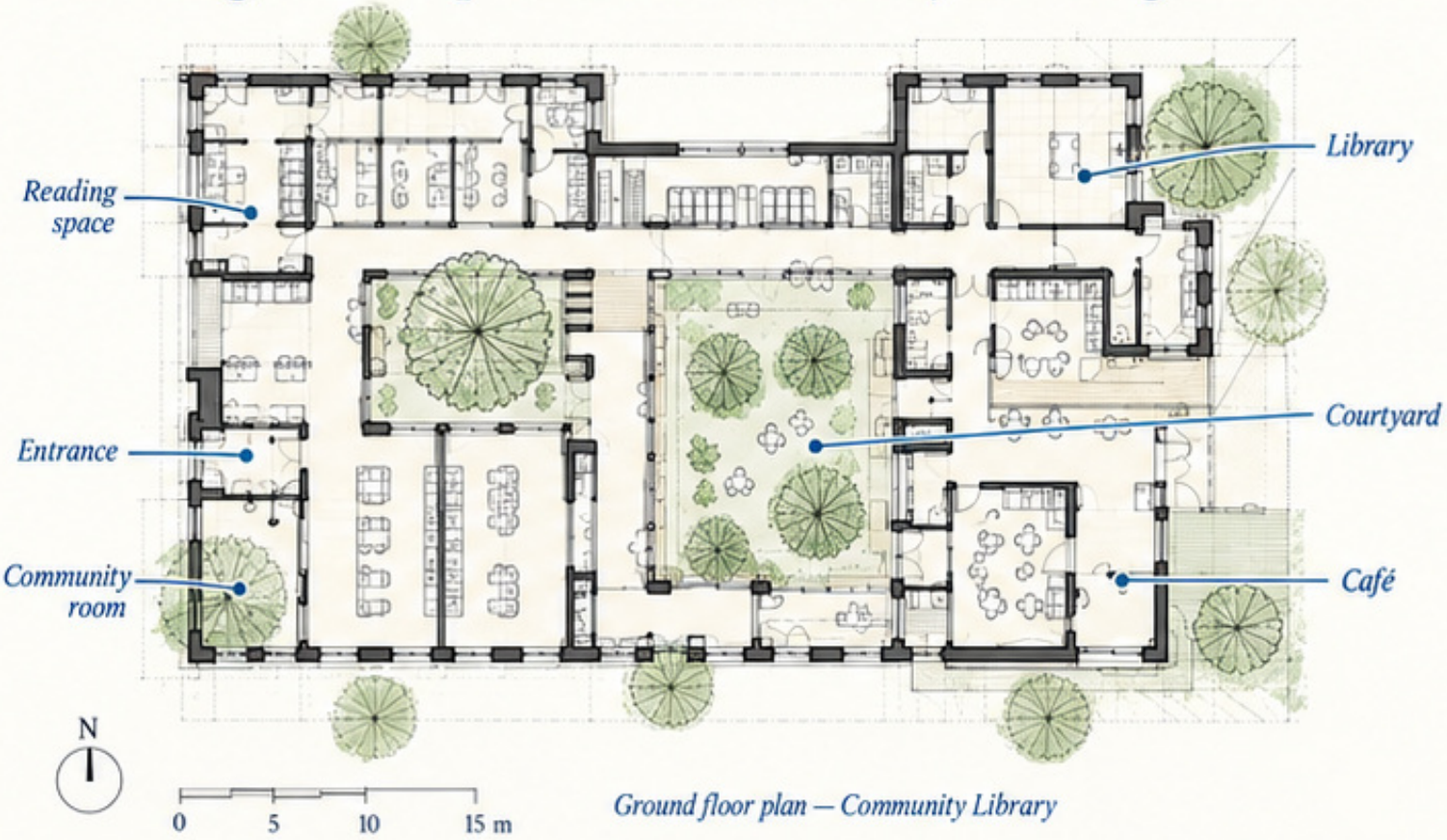
PDVS Language Tutorial Services

FREE GUIDE 03a
ARCHITECTURAL ENGLISH
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# How to Describe Architectural Drawings in English

Use clear and accurate language to explain your drawings and help others understand your design.




*Ground floor plan — Community Library*

## A SIMPLE FRAMEWORK

**01**
### Identify the drawing
Say what type of drawing it is and what it shows.

**02**
### Describe the key elements
Explain spaces, circulation, structure and important features.

**03**
### Explain the relationships
Use clear language to describe how spaces connect and work together.

**04**
### Link to the design intention
Finish by explaining how the drawing supports your overall concept.

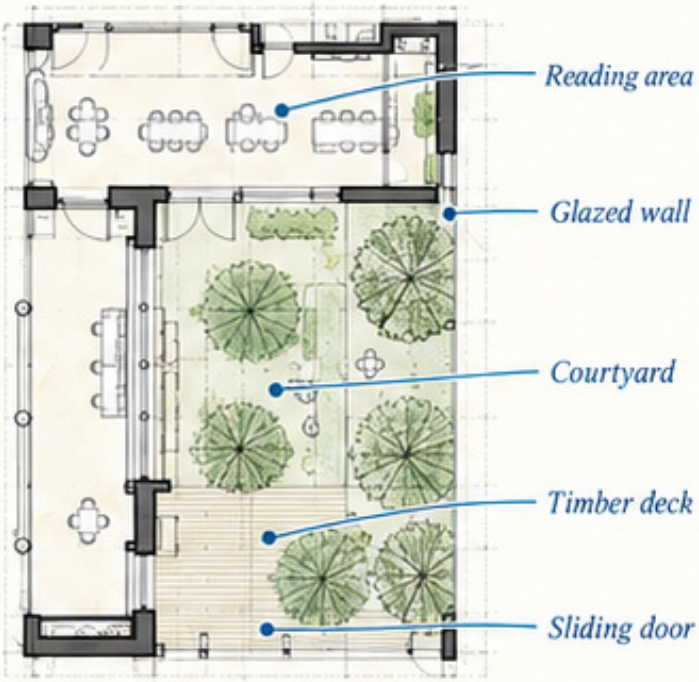
**USEFUL TIP**

Use precise and consistent vocabulary for architectural elements.
Avoid vague words like "this" or "here". Point clearly to the part of the drawing you are describing.

## 01 KEY VOCABULARY

Use these words and phrases to describe architectural drawings clearly and accurately.

| | |
|---|---|
| ground floor plan | load-bearing wall |
| site plan | non-load-bearing wall |
| section | column |
| elevation | beam |
| scale | structural frame |
| grid | glazing |
| circulation | courtyard |
| entrance | internal / external |
| staircase | adjacent to |
| lift / elevator | connects to |




*Plan detail — Reading space and courtyard*

## 02 MODEL EXAMPLE

This example describes the ground floor plan shown on Page 1.

> "This is the ground floor plan of a community library. The main entrance leads into an open lobby beside the reading spaces. A central courtyard brings light and greenery into the building. The community room and café are positioned on opposite sides of the plan, while circulation is clear and direct. The layout connects quiet study areas with shared social spaces in a simple and readable way.

## 03 YOUR TURN

Look at the plan on Page 1 and write a short description using the prompts below. Try to complete it in four to five sentences.

1. What type of drawing is it and what does it show? _____
2. What are the main spaces and features? _____
3. How are the spaces connected? _____
4. How does the drawing support the design intention? _____

## 04 CHECKLIST

Does your description ...?

- ☐ identify the drawing type
- ☐ use clear vocabulary
- ☐ explain the key elements
- ☐ link to the design intention