

WRITING: style, linking and practice exam

Academic style 3 The sentences below are taken from a student's answer to the task above. For each of 1–6, choose which one you think is better for an academic text. The first one is done for you.

- 1 a In loads of countries, families are getting smaller and kids move far away from their mum and dad when they leave home.
b In many countries, family size is decreasing and young people move far away from their parents when they leave home.
- 2 a It is often argued that this is a positive development, leading to greater mobility and independence.
b You could argue that this is a good thing, leading to more mobility and independence.
- 3 a But, being part of an extended family provides a useful support network to deal with difficult problems.
b However, being part of an extended family provides a useful support network to deal with difficult problems.

- 4 a Having lots of relatives around can be a source of experience and information for younger people.
b Having lots of cousins, uncles, aunties, and grandparents around can be a source of experience and information for younger people.
- 5 a For example, it is often difficult to discuss problems with parents, whereas other family members might be able to listen more sympathetically and give advice.
b For example, it is often difficult to discuss problems with parents. Other family members might be able to listen more sympathetically and give advice.
- 6 a Without this, individuals in small families have the hard prospect of having to work things out for themselves.
b Without this, individuals in small families face the daunting prospect of having to work things out for themselves.

4 Match the sentences you chose with the following features of academic writing.

- Impersonal style
- Formal vocabulary
- Choice of correct terms
- Correct use of collocation
- Correct use of linking words
- Longer complex sentences

5 The paragraph below is taken from the rest of the essay and contains some errors of style in *italic*. What changes would you make to each one to improve the academic tone?

Large extended families are also *great for the oldies* as they become more dependent on others. *And*, having more helpers available means that the caring can be shared. In smaller families, *grandmothers, grandfathers, great aunties and uncles* may have to rely on a single carer or public resources.

Having a *near relative* in a particular career can also provide useful links and practical assistance for younger relatives who *fancy following* the same path. *The upshot is that* being part of a large family group provides a lot of benefits, *like* the support that other family members can offer.

Proofreading

1 The following are sentences taken from essays written by IELTS candidates on the subject of immigration. Correct the common grammatical errors that they contain. All the sentences contain errors.

- 1 I am agree that people should be allowed to travel to find work.
- 2 If people have many experience, I think they can become citizens quite easy.
- 3 Young people what are new to a country have to learn many things about it.
- 4 There are many place, for example in factories, in where they can work.
- 5 In some countries people they can be stay there as long as they want to.
- 6 The families are not as close as they used to because widespread emigration.
- 7 It is known that every problems comes from poor communication.
- 8 You need many money for taxes, for clothes, for food, for everything in new country.

Using appropriate language

2 When writing a Task 2 essay in both the General Training and Academic Writing Modules it is important to use a formal style. Read this Task 2 question and answer, and circle the more academic of the words in italics.

There are more advantages to studying abroad than disadvantages.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Nowadays, there is a 1 *growing* / *big* tendency among some families to send their 2 *kids* / *children* abroad for a better education. 3 *First of all* / *In the first place*, some countries 4 *such as* / *e.g.* the USA, Canada, Britain, 5 *etc.* / *and so on* have very advanced 6 *schools* / *educational systems*. 7 *Kids* / *Children* studying there will 8 *receive* / *get* a very good education. 9 *Next* / *Secondly*, living abroad will also 10 *enrich* / *make better* their knowledge, broaden their minds and widen their horizons. It will help them in the understanding of other countries, both of the culture and the people.

11 *Admittedly* / *True*, studying abroad requires 12 *a considerable amount* / *a lot of* money. The tuition 13 *money* / *fees*, the living expenses and the 14 *flat* / *accommodation* all cost 15 *a great deal* / *a lot*. 16 *In addition*, / *And* a child living abroad alone may 17 *get lonely* / *suffer from loneliness*.

18 *However*, / *But* the advantages of sending a teenager abroad 19 *to get educated* / *for educational purposes* far outweigh the disadvantages. They can 20 *study* / *learn* advanced technology and science, they can learn to speak a language 21 *well* / *fluently* and their minds will be enriched. The 22 *problem* / *trouble* is, when is 23 *an appropriate* / *the right* age to send them abroad? 24 *If you have enough money* / *Money permitting*, I think the time after high school is the 25 *most suitable* / *best*. 26 *At this time* / *Then*, they can live 27 *by themselves* / *independently*, and therefore learn something new 28 *better* / *more effectively*.

MORE PRACTICE WITH CONNECTORS

Expressing Contrast

1 he's been really ill lately, he insists on going into work.

- Even though
 - Even if
 - Even when
-

2 I'll never forget you, I live to be 100.

- even if
 - even though
 - even when
-

3 We decided to go to Italy for our holiday, it meant we needed to get our passports renewed.

- despite
 - despite the fact that
 - in spite of
-

4 She decided to travel by plane being very scared of flying.

- in spite of
 - despite the fact
 - despite that
-

5 I'm not going out tonight., I can see you tomorrow if you like.

- Although
 - However
 - Yet
-

6 the car was quite old, it was still very reliable.

- Since
- Yet
- Although

7 to the party they had last year, this one is great.

- Contrary
- In contrast
- On the contrary

**8 I do not agree with the criticism that her latest film is disappointing.
....., I find it one of her best pieces of work so far.**

In contrast

Contrary

On the contrary

Addition

1 to being late with your repayments, you have also failed to reply to any of our letters.

Furthermore

In addition

As well as

2 We have decorated all the rooms in the flat tidying up the garden.

as well as

furthermore

in addition

3 The Government have banned the sale of the product., they have threatened the company with legal action.

As well as

Furthermore

Besides

4 being the chairman of the company she is also a regular member of several public organisations.

Equally

Besides

Moreover

5 Studying a second language can help you in your career., it will also enable you to meet new people.

Moreover

Anyway

As well

6 the many books he wrote, he was also well known for his work with charities.

In addition to

Furthermore

Moreover

7 I don't want to go out in this weather., there's a really good film on TV tonight.

Moreover

In addition

Besides

8 I don't want to see them tonight., they were supposed to call us earlier.

In addition

Anyway

Moreover

Purpose or Reason: Use the words in bold print to complete the sentences. You will have to add other words or make changes.

1. Because of the accident on the motorway, motorists are advised to use an alternative route. **consequence**

Motorists should find an alternative route an accident on the motorway.

2. I'm going to night school so that I can improve my German.

order

I'm going to night school improve my German.

3. The captain won't be playing today because of a bad injury.

due

..... that the captain has a bad injury, he won't be playing today.

4. He changed jobs because he wanted to be nearer to home.

so

.....he could be nearer to home he changed jobs.

5. The man was released because the police had no evidence against him.

account

The police released the man the fact that they had no evidence against him.

6. The college was closed for a month owing to the summer holidays.

result

The college was closed for a month the summer holidays.

7. Since we hadn't been out all day, we decided to go to the cinema.

owing

..... that we hadn't been out all day, we decided to go to the cinema.

8. We phoned the hotel to complain as we'd had such terrible service.

because

We phoned the hotel to complain the bad service we'd had.

Time

- 1 I didn't really enjoy the course, but after a while I really started to enjoy it.

In the beginning

At the beginning

- 2 of the film the main character arrives in town looking for somewhere to stay.

In the beginning

At the beginning

3 We waited ages for a bus. we decided to walk home.

Eventually

At last

4 The audience waited patiently for the delayed performance to start. the curtain rose.

Lastly

At last

5 I waited for you 10.00. I finally decided you weren't coming.

before

until

6 I managed to get the house tidy my parents got home.

before

until

7 had I gone to bed than I heard the phone ring.

Hardly

As soon as

8 I played a lot of tennis I was on holiday.

during

while

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS FOR WRITING ESSAYS

1) Introduction:

It is often claimed / said / asserted / stated...

Today we are often confronted with the problem of...

This assertion raises a fundamental question / issue...

It is necessary to be aware of the advantages and drawbacks...

2) Developing arguments:

a) First(ly)... second(ly)... third(ly)...

Furthermore,...

In addition,...

Similarly,...

Moreover,...

It must also be said that...

b) exemplification

For example...

Take for example...

..., for instance, ...

To illustrate this,...

...illustrates this point perfectly.

e) Making claims

It is vital / essential to realize / acknowledge / accept...

It is certainly true / correct...

Some claim that..., while others believe that...

...seems (un)likely / probable / (im)possible...

f) Counter-arguments

However, ... we must not forget that... / there are other issues to consider.

On the other hand

On the contrary...

This completely contradicts...

3) Ending the essay

Summing up,

Having outlined the main arguments...

On balance, it can be said that...

To conclude...

MORE PRACTICE WITH SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Put the following items in order to form well-constructed sentences. Be sure to write out the sentences on the line provided.

1. It may

be true	indeed	society	that
focussed on	is less	spirituality	to say

2. However,.....

analysis	issue	this
further	requires	

3. Have?

been	positive	such
largely	or negative	practices
of		the benefits

4. On balance,
.....

far outweigh	on the	the amount	the
of freedom	Internet		disadvantage
of limiting	the		s
	advantages.		

5. In

attitudes	have	same-sex	years,
changed	recent	marriages	
considerably		toward	

PRACTICE EXAM

READING AND WRITING

I. You will **read** an article about **the sharing economy**. Then you will **write** an essay discussing the **advantages and disadvantages of the sharing economy**. You should base your composition on selected information from the article, but you should also include your own ideas.

Step One: Reading. You have **20 minutes** to read the article. On the paper provided, take **notes** on the information which will be useful in your essay. **DO NOT** copy entire phrases from the article to include in your composition. This is plagiarism and you will lose points.

Step Two: Writing. You will have **70 minutes** to write your essay. It should be organized into separate paragraphs and include an **introduction, development** and **conclusion**. It should be **between 300 and 400** words. Before you write, make an outline of your composition. This will be submitted with your exam and be part of the final evaluation.

Evaluation: You will be evaluated on your ability to:

- 1) **Plan and organize a logical essay** which clearly addresses the positive and negative aspects of the issue.
- 2) **Develop your argument** in a logical progression.
- 3) **Express your ideas** clearly and accurately using a broad range of vocabulary and a variety of sentence structures.

The rise of the sharing economy

The Economist Mar 9th 2013

LAST night 40,000 people rented accommodation from a service that offers 250,000 rooms in 30,000 cities in 192 countries. They chose their rooms and paid for everything online. But their beds were provided by private individuals, rather than a hotel chain. Hosts and guests were matched up by Airbnb, a firm based in San Francisco. Since its launch in 2008 more than 4m people have used it—2.5m of them in 2012 alone. It is the most prominent example of a huge new “sharing economy”, in which people rent beds, cars, boats and other assets directly from each other, co-ordinated via the internet.

This might seem no different from running a bed-and-breakfast, owning a timeshare or participating in a car pool. But technology has reduced transaction costs, making sharing assets cheaper and easier than ever, and therefore possible on a much larger scale. The big change is the availability of more data about people and things, which allows physical assets to be disaggregated and consumed as services. Before the internet, renting a surfboard, a power tool or a parking space from someone else was feasible, but was usually more trouble than it was worth. Now websites such as Airbnb, RelayRides and SnapGoods match up owners and renters; smartphones with GPS let people see where the nearest rentable car is parked; social networks provide a way to check up on people and build trust; and online payment systems handle the billing.

What’s mine is yours, for a fee

Just as peer-to-peer businesses like eBay allow anyone to become a retailer, sharing sites let individuals act as an ad hoc taxi service, car-hire firm or boutique hotel as and when it suits them. This can be done simply by going online or downloading an app. The model works for items that are expensive to buy and are widely owned by people who do not make full use of them. Bedrooms and cars are the most obvious examples, but it is also possible to rent camping spaces in Sweden, fields in Australia and washing machines in France. As proponents of the sharing economy like to put it, access trumps ownership.

Rachel Botsman, the author of a book on the subject, says the consumer peer-to-peer rental market alone is worth \$26 billion. Broader definitions of the sharing economy include peer-to-peer lending, or installing

solar panels on rooftops and selling power back to the grid.

Such “collaborative consumption” is a good thing for several reasons. Owners make money from underused assets. Airbnb says hosts in San Francisco who rent out their homes do so for an average of 58 nights a year, making \$9,300. Car owners who rent their vehicles to others using RelayRides make an average of \$250 a month; some make more than \$1,000. Renters, meanwhile, pay less than they would if they bought the item themselves, or turned to a traditional provider such as a hotel or car-hire firm.

For sociable souls, meeting new people by staying in their homes is part of the charm. Curmudgeons who imagine that every renter is Norman Bates can still stay at conventional hotels. For others, the web fosters trust. As well as the background checks carried out by platform owners, online reviews and ratings are usually posted by both parties to each transaction, which makes it easy to spot lousy drivers, bathrobe-pilferers and surfboard-wreckers. By using Facebook and other social networks, participants can check each other out and identify friends (or friends of friends) in common. An Airbnb user had her apartment trashed in 2011. But the remarkable thing is how well the system usually works.

Peering into the future

The main worry is regulatory uncertainty. Will room-renters be subject to hotel taxes, for example? In Amsterdam officials are using Airbnb listings to track down unlicensed hotels. In some American cities, peer-to-peer taxi services have been banned after lobbying by traditional taxi firms. The danger is that although some rules need to be updated to protect consumers from harm, incumbents will try to destroy competition. People who rent out rooms should pay tax, of course, but they should not be regulated like a Ritz-Carlton hotel. The lighter rules that typically govern bed-and-breakfasts are more than adequate.

The sharing economy is the latest example of the internet’s value to consumers. This emerging model is now big and disruptive enough for regulators and companies to have woken up to it. That is a sign of its immense potential. It is time to start caring about sharing.