

**TASK 1** Synonyms  
Understanding data information  
Review of linkers

**TASK 2** Essay types  
Typical errors  
Editing your work

## Task 1 Synonyms

- 1 Complete the advice about taking a writing exam with words from the box.

address ■ analysing ■ ensure ■ generalize ■ key ■ miss out ■ paraphrase  
predictable ■ range ■ state

When taking a writing exam such as IELTS, <sup>1</sup> ..... that you know the typical topics which might arise. These can be fairly <sup>2</sup> ..... but even so, be careful to read the question carefully. You should be sure to <sup>3</sup> ..... every part of the question; many people either <sup>4</sup> ..... too much or <sup>5</sup> ..... some parts. Don't write out the question. Try to <sup>6</sup> ..... it instead.

Once you have finished <sup>7</sup> ..... the question, write a plan. Include <sup>8</sup> ..... points and supporting evidence. If appropriate, make sure you <sup>9</sup> ..... your viewpoint clearly and also use a wide <sup>10</sup> ..... of language including interesting vocabulary and grammar. And don't forget a strong introduction and conclusion.

- 2 In each pair of words below, only one is a viable synonym for 1–10 in 1. Circle the correct words.

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 check/assume                               | 6 translate/rephrase    |
| 2 foreseeable/unavoidable                    | 7 inspecting/evaluating |
| 3 arrange/tackle                             | 8 significant/chief     |
| 4 make sweeping statements/make stipulations | 9 testify/express       |
| 5 fail/omit                                  | 10 selection/scale      |

- 3 At what age did you begin learning English? Do you think there is there an age when you can learn more easily?



- 4 Read the text below. What does it tell you about the best age for language learning? Does it suggest a correlation between language learning and age?

Researchers constantly disagree about age and the ability to learn language. One theory is that there is a 'critical period' and if you try to learn after this period it is more difficult. Others disagree and believe it is other factors that make it more difficult. One study from 1989 investigated how quickly immigrants learnt a language and found that those who began youngest were able to learn the most.

- 5 Read the text below about a study of language learning. Complete the bar chart with information from the text. First label the columns 1–4. Then draw the bars.

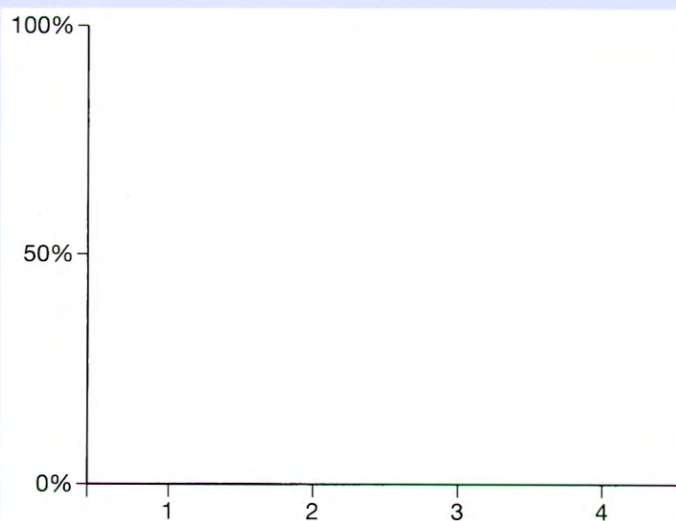
The bar chart illustrates the results of an English test taken by four groups of immigrants, all of whom arrived in the USA when they were different ages. The groups were made up of those who arrived in the USA between ages 3 and 7, those aged 8 to 10, a third group covering ages 11 to 15 and finally those who emigrated after the age of 17.

Overall, it is evident that the immigrants who were younger at their time of arrival achieved a much greater level of proficiency in the language. Those who were 3 to 7 when they emigrated scored an average of 98 per cent in the test, the highest overall outcome.

However, this level of proficiency dropped rapidly for those who arrived age 17 or over; the oldest group achieved an average score of 76 per cent, which is the lowest proportion.

This trend is further supported by the scores of the other age groups; those who arrived aged 8 to 10 also did better than those arriving aged 11 to 15, achieving 93 per cent and 85 per cent respectively.

In conclusion, we can see that the bar chart demonstrates a consistent decrease in the proficiency levels of immigrants according to their age on arrival. It seems the younger they arrive, the quicker they are likely to learn English to a proficient degree.



### Technique

If you have written a good essay, a reader should be able to draw a rough graph of the information. If they can't, you haven't written clearly enough.

6 What are the highest and lowest points described in the text in 5?

7 Put the underlined words from the text in 5 in the correct place in the table below. Then add the words from the box to the table.

although ■ as ■ but ■ despite ■ due to ■ for example ■ for instance ■ firstly ■ furthermore  
hence ■ in addition to ■ in order to ■ moreover ■ nevertheless ■ next ■ on the other hand  
since ■ so ■ so as to ■ so long as ■ subsequently ■ such as ■ therefore ■ to ■ unless  
whereas ■ while

Ordering ideas	Additions	Contrast	Concession
Showing reason	Showing result	Showing purpose	Exemplification

8 Complete the sentences with an appropriate linking word or expression. More than one answer may be possible.

- It is hard to learn a new language. \_\_\_\_\_ many people make the effort.
- Travelling is an excellent way to meet new people \_\_\_\_\_ you have to get out of the hotel to do this.
- \_\_\_\_\_ he wants to study science, he is taking biology, chemistry and physics at school.
- The business plan is going well. \_\_\_\_\_ they did a lot of research and then they got in the right team to work on it and finally they found some excellent investors.
- The population has risen dramatically and \_\_\_\_\_ there is pressure on housing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ learning various sports, the children said they hadn't got much exercise.
- \_\_\_\_\_ deforestation, global warming is also caused by air and water pollution and industrial and farming practices.
- The olives are pressed \_\_\_\_\_ make olive oil.
- You can study a number of courses \_\_\_\_\_ art or interior design.
- The exam was tough \_\_\_\_\_ he passed with flying colours.

### Technique

It is important to use a good range of linking expressions but don't use too many or it will sound very unnatural. Change the linkers and use them to help the flow of the essay, but don't overdo it and check that punctuation is used correctly.

## Task 2 Typical errors

1 Think of answers for the questions below.

- How easy is it to learn a language?
- Which languages are spoken most in the world?
- How many languages are endangered?
- Are there any artificial languages?
- What is the best way to learn a language?

2 Match the answers 1–5 with the questions a–e in 1.

- It is claimed that 2 500 languages are in danger of disappearing. Some have less than 1 000 speakers.
- This varies from person to person – no single way has been found. If you understand your learning style, you can identify the way that works best for you.
- The most spoken languages are Mandarin Chinese and English. Spanish is the third most common language.
- It is easier to learn a language that is similar to your own. Therefore, a Polish speaker will find Slavic languages easier to learn than others.
- Around 200 artificial languages have been invented since the 17th century. The best known is Esperanto with 2 million speakers.

### Technique

When we write in English we usually put the complex information at the end of the sentence. But in an academic essay we sometimes order the information differently. We use

- nominalization (creating nouns).
- participle clauses.
- 'cleft' sentences (*It is ... who ...* or *It was ... that ...*).

3 Read the example and match sentences 1–3 with a technique a–c from the box above.

People who can speak another language fluently earn, on average, approximately 8 per cent more than people who don't.

- It is speaking another language that can increase our wages by approximately 8 per cent.
- Bilingualism can increase our wages by 8 per cent.
- Speaking another language fluently allows us to earn approximately 8 per cent more.

4 Rewrite the sentences in 2 using one of the three techniques from the box.

5 Look at the following essay questions. Match a question with an essay type in the table a–d.

- Learning a second language is often seen as important nowadays but many people fail to do so. What measures would help more people to learn?
- All schoolchildren should learn another language whether they would like to or not. Is this realistic? Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.
- Some people believe that travel is beneficial while others argue that increased travel and globalization is destroying local cultures. Discuss both viewpoints and give your own opinion.
- Taking a year to travel after university is of great benefit to young people. To what extent do you agree?



a Theory-based essay	
b Contrasting viewpoints essay	
c Evaluation and opinion essay	
d Problem-solving essay	

6 Match the plans 1–4 to the question types a–d in 5.

**Plan 1**

- introduce topic
- state opinion
- justify opinion
- summarize

**Plan 2**

- idea or theory
- my reason and supporting evidence
- further reason and supporting evidence
- conclusion

**Plan 3**

- topic introduced
- idea 1: benefits and drawbacks
- idea 2: benefits and drawbacks
- conclusion and final opinion

**Plan 4**

- problem introduced
- solution 1: advantages and disadvantages
- solution 2: advantages and disadvantages
- conclusion

**Technique**

Make sure you have fully analysed the question and decided on the overall pattern of your essay. This will help you at the writing stage and give a good flow to the essay.

7 Read the first part of two different essays quickly. Which question from 5 does each answer?

a This idea is something I agree with. I think they should definitely travel because it is good to broaden your mind and ideas. Travel does this. You can also learn a language from it. An example is one friend of mine who travelled and when she returned home she had a more positive outlook and ideas about the world. It is good for this reason. It gives you a chance to experiment and find out about yourself. This will also make you more understanding of the people and cultures around you.

b It is true to say that, even though the world is becoming increasingly globalized and international communication is important, people are still not learning a second language, unfortunately. Also, they don't learn enough about other cultures. Moreover, they don't think it is a disadvantage that they don't speak another language. There are a variety of solutions that might help with this problem.

- 8** Which problems can you see in the paragraphs in 7? Complete the checklist of the most common problems. Tick the boxes on the right.

	a	b
1 no clear introduction setting up the ideas		
2 unclear planning – no central idea in each paragraph		
3 basic sentences which lack variety		
4 repetition of vocabulary		
5 lack of cohesion or overuse of linkers		
6 lack of referencing		
7 poor grammar		
8 poor spelling		
9 unclear viewpoint or overgeneralized statements		
10 no clear conclusion		

- 9** There are two key ideas in the first essay extract: travel can broaden the mind and helps people learn about themselves; it also allows people to learn another language and learn about each other. Rewrite the paragraph following the points below.

- a Introduce your ideas clearly.
- b State the first idea and support it with evidence.
- c State the second idea and support it with evidence.
- d Include some reference words and try to avoid repetition.

- 10** Rewrite the second essay extract by removing the excess linking words.

- 11** Each of the following sentences has a typical spelling or grammar error. Find and correct the errors.

- a The number of people learning Chinese are increasing.
- b Many people had started to learn this to increase their employment prospects.
- c A culture is constantly changing as people travel the globe.
- d Communications is important in maintaining good relations between countries.
- e Due to this it is easier to learn a language
- f There is an increase in intercultural relationships and marriage of a foreigner.
- g The people which have travelled are more open-minded.
- h Being well-travelling is a positive characteristic.

### Technique

When you write your essays, allow five minutes at the end to check your work. Do this systematically. Think about content, organization and flow, if your ideas are clearly presented, if there is a strong introduction and conclusion, and check for grammar and spelling.

**12** Match the types of error 1–8 with the sentences in 11.

- 1 incomplete sentences
- 2 word form
- 3 agreement between subject and verb
- 4 countable and uncountable nouns
- 5 relative clauses
- 6 articles
- 7 tense
- 8 prepositions

**13** Read an extract from the essay about travelling after university. Find and correct the errors.

Travel can be very benefit to the young people in many ways and therefore gap years, which is students travel abroad for a time before embarking upon a career, can be very useful for people as they grow up. I would therefore maintain that travelling was a positive experience for young people.

First, travelling allows people to broaden their minds to learning about an unknown culture. And by spending time abroad the person will experienced new and unique events. They can learn a great deal about the world around them. In general this type of experience also helps people to develop their own personality. Because they begin to carve out their own opinions from a wider perspective.

Also second, they can find a lot about the rest of the world such as learning another language and meeting new people. This will make them more richer as a person when they eventually settle down and start to working. This must be a big advantag and give them a good start to working life.

Finally they will have been learning responsibility and autonomousness because of their experience.

Therefore, for these reasons, all in all I agree that people should try to travel after their studies finish.



## Practice Test 10

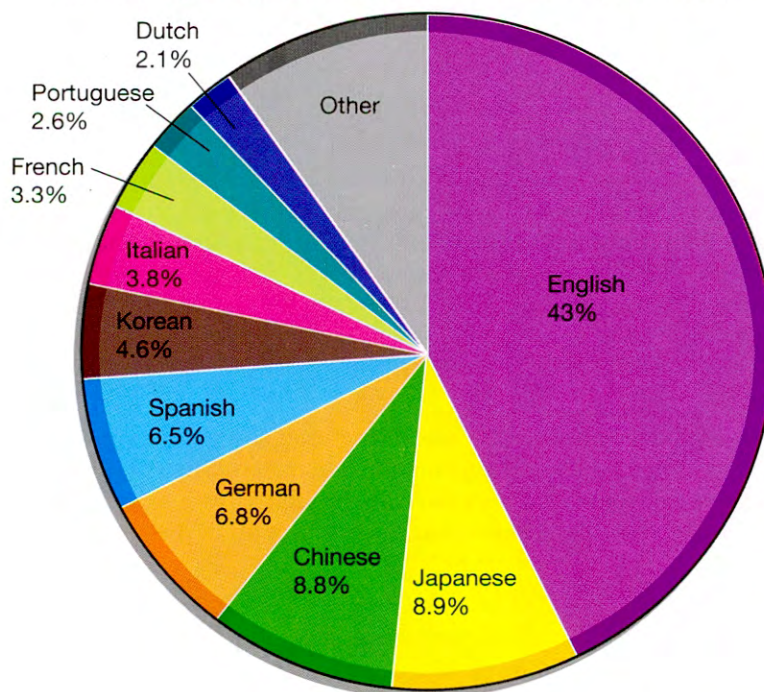
### Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The pie chart shows the number of people who were using different languages online. The table shows the average number of people online each year. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Online language populations Total: 529 million (Dec., 2001)



Date	Number in millions	% of world population
August 2001	513	8.4
August 2000	368	60
August 1999	195	4.6
September 1998	147	3.6
November 1997	76	1.8

### Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Nowadays many countries have very cosmopolitan cities with people from all over the world. How can the government ensure that all these people can live together harmoniously?

Write at least 250 words.