



Mustansiriyah University

College of Pharmacy

English Lecture 4


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Writing

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Academic Writing

In this task you will be presented with a topic and will be tested on your ability to respond by

- giving and justifying an opinion
 - discussing the topic
 - summarizing details
 - outlining problems
 - identifying possible solutions
 - supporting what you write with reasons
 - arguments and relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.
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General Advices in academic writing

- Read the questions carefully and make sure you understand them.
- Plan each task to make sure you answer all parts of the question and organise your ideas well when you write.
- **DON'T** spend too much time planning. No more than 10 minutes.
- **DON'T** write a first draft in full and then write a second. You will not have time for this.
- Write in paragraphs.
- Use a variety of language and connecting words/phrases to join ideas together (e.g. as a result, however).
- Leave time to review your writing. Read it once to check it makes sense, then read it again and check for any incorrect language, punctuation and spelling.

Example

- Write about the following topic:
 - ***Supermarkets should only sell food produced from within their own country rather than imports from overseas.***
 - ***What are your opinions on this?***
- Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.
- Write at least 250 words.



Model answer

Introduce
your ideas

Nowadays, supermarkets are stocked with food products from around the world. Some would **argue** that it would be better if food produce was not imported. **I firmly** believe that this view is correct, and will discuss the reasons why in this essay.

Support
your first
idea with
examples

It is certainly the case that importing food can have a **negative** effect on local **culture**. This can be seen in countries such as Japan where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. Although some would **claim** that this is a natural part of **economic** development in an increasingly **global** world, I feel strongly that any loss of **regional** culture would be **detrimental**.

Blue color: represent connecting phrases

Red color: represent high level academic words

Under line words: represent prepositional phrases and lexical bundles and some useful extra sentences can be used in academic writing.

Support
your second
idea with
examples

A second major reason to reduce imports is the environmental cost. **Currently**, many food imports, such as fruit, are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, making the product more **expensive** to buy and increasing pollution from exhaust fumes. Despite the fact that the trade in food exports has **existed** for many years, I am convinced that a **reduction** would bring significant **financial** and environmental **gains**.

Give a
contrast
idea

However, many jobs depend on food exports and some less developed countries may even depend on this trade for **economic** survival. **In spite of this**, the importance of developing local trade should not be **undervalued**.

Conclude
the topic
with your
opinion

In conclusion, I am certain that reducing food imports would have cultural and environmental **benefits**. **What is more**, the local economy should, **in time**, **prosper commercially** as the **demand** for local and regional products **remains** high resisting the competition from overseas.

Prepositional connecting phrases you may needed in academic writing

As

- as far
- as a result of
- as well as

At

- at the expense of
- at first
- at an advantage
- at risk of,

By

- by means of
- by the time of
- by then

For

- for example
- for instance
- for the moment
- for the sake of

In

- in accordance with
- in addition to
- in case of
- in contrast to
- in the face of
- in order to
- in need of
- **in spite of**
- in view of

On

- On account of
- On the basis of
- On the ground of
- On purpose
- On the side of

Over

over a period of

Under

under consideration
under the control of
under discussion
under the impression

With

with the exception of
with regards to
with respect to
with the development of
with the treat of

Within

within the framework of

Without

Without exception
Without success
Without the support of

Common lexical bundles

Three-word	Four-word	Five-word
in order to	on the other hand	on the other hand the
in terms of	at the same time	at the end of the
one of the	in the case of	it should be noted that
the use of	the end of the	it can be seen that
as well as	as well as the	due to the fact that
the number of	at the end of	at the beginning of the
due to the	in terms of the	may be due to the
on the other	on the basis of	it was found that the
based on the	in the present study	to the fact that the
the other hand	is one of the	there are a number of
in this study	in the form of	in the case of the
a number of	the nature of the	as a result of the
the fact that	the results of the	at the same time the

most of the

there is a

according to the

the present study

part of the

the end of

the relationship between

in the following

the role of

some of the

as a result

it can be

the fact that the

as a result of

in relation to the

at the beginning of

with respect to the

the other hand the

the relationship between the

in the context of

can be used to

to the fact that

as shown in figure

it was found that

is one of the most

it is possible that the

one of the most important

play an important role in

can be seen as a/the

the results of this study

from the point of view

the point of view of

it can be observed that

this may be due to

an important role in the


in the form of a

Extra example 1

Write about the following topic:

- ***In some countries it is thought advisable that children begin formal education at four years old, while in others they do not have to start school until they are seven or eight.***

How far do you agree with either of these views?

- Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.
 - Write at least 250 words.
- 

Possible answer:

- In some parts of the world, parents **encourage** their children to begin studying **while** they are still toddlers, using a **variety** of books and computer games **which** teach them to count or to learn their letters. The parents choose a first school for their four-year-old **which** focuses on **academic** ability in order that, by the time they enter the next school, the children are well ahead of their age group, with high marks in important **subjects** such as maths and language, or are **equipped** to take competitive **entrance** examinations for other schools if that is relevant.
- **In other countries**, children are at home or playschool **until** they are **around** seven years old. They do not even begin to study reading **until** then, **but** they listen to and tell stories, they paint and draw, they make models and build tree houses, they swim and play ball games, they keep fish and grow plants in the playschool garden.

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- In my opinion, the question is not which method produces the most able students, because all over the world, the majority of those who reach university do so at around the same age, wherever they are educated. A brilliant scientist from one country may be working in a laboratory alongside an equally brilliant scientist from another country and the educational start of each career may have been in complete contrast. Therefore, it is clear that the two approaches can both produce able academics, all other things being equal. Nevertheless, it is probable that one method is preferable to the other.
- It seems to me that spending early childhood struggling to acquire academic skills in a competitive atmosphere is not the best way to produce a balanced personality. Learning through play and developing social skills equips a child for adult life in essential ways that the competitive parents neglect. If the child has academic ability, this will manifest itself as the child develops and does not need to be forced at an early age.

Extra example 2

Write about the following topic:

- ***Many people believe that the high levels of violence in films today are causing serious social problems.***

What are these problems and how could they be reduced?

- Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.
 - Write at least 250 words.
- 

Possible answer

- ▶ The increasing amount of **violence** that is shown **regularly** in films has been a cause of **concern** for some time. Such films make violence appear **entertaining**, exciting and even something to be copied. **However**, it seems to be increasingly clear that this development is causing problems in our **society**.
- ▶ **First of all**, those who enjoy such films **eventually** stop associating the violence with any real **consequences**. They **therefore** lose their sense of reality and no longer take violence seriously or have any sympathy with the victims. This is bad for both **individuals** and for our whole society. Another worrying trend is that in these films the heroes are shown as people to be **admired**, **even though** they are very violent characters. **This leads impressionable** people to believe that they can **gain** respect and admiration by copying this **aggressive behaviour**, and so the levels of violence increase, especially in **major cities** throughout the world.

- ▶ What is needed to combat these problems is **definite** action. The government should **regulate** the film industry **on the one hand**, and provide better **education on the other**. Producers must be prevented from showing **meaningless** violence as 'fun' in their films. **Instead**, films could **emphasise** the tragic **consequences** of violent acts and this would educate people, especially young people, to realise that violence is real.

- ▶ **To conclude**, I think that viewing violence as **entertainment** may indeed cause serious social problems and that the only way to **improve** this **situation** is by **regulating** the industry and educating the public about the real human suffering that such violence brings.

Thank You

