

# WRITING TECHNIQUES

# 1

- **Complex Sentence Exercise**

Combine the following sentences into complex sentences.  
Remember that a number of answers may be correct.

His name is Peter.  
He's a famous professional athlete.  
He's a baseball player.

He has a large house in Miami.  
The house is beautiful.  
He often travels around the US.  
He plays away games in different cities in the US.  
He travels by airplane.  
He usually sleeps on the plane.  
He stays up late after games.  
He is an excellent pitcher.  
Fans love his abilities.  
Coaches love his abilities.

Every week he plays a home game.  
The game is played in Glover Stadium.  
The game is usually sold out.  
Glover Stadium is old.  
Glover Stadium doesn't have enough seats for all the fans.  
The fans wait in line to buy tickets.  
The fans often pay more than \$60 dollars for a ticket.  
The fans are unhappy about the ticket prices.  
The fans love Peter.



- **Construction of a paragraph**

There are four sentence types used to construct a paragraph:

### Topic sentence

One sentence which states your idea, point, or opinion. This sentence should use a strong verb and make a bold statement.

### Supporting sentences

Supporting sentences (notice the plural) provide explanations and support for the topic sentence (main idea) of your paragraph.

### Concluding sentence

The concluding sentence restates the main idea (found in your topic sentence) and reinforces the point or opinion. Concluding sentences repeat the main idea of your paragraph **in different words**.

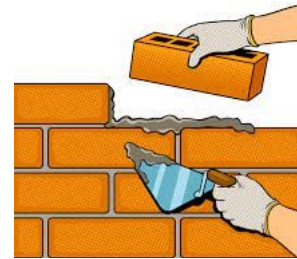
### Transitional sentence

The transitional sentence prepares the reader for the following paragraph. Transitional sentences should help readers logically understand the connection between your current main idea, point or opinion and the main idea of your next paragraph. In the example below, the phrase 'just one of the necessary ingredients ...' prepares the reader for the next paragraph which will discuss another necessary ingredient for success.

For example:

*Students require more recreational time in order to better focus on lessons in class.* In fact, studies have shown that students who enjoy a recess of more than 45 minutes consistently score better on tests immediately following the recess period. Clinical analysis further suggests that physical exercise greatly improves the ability to focus on academic materials. *Longer periods of recess are clearly required to allow students the best possible chances of success in their studies.* Clearly, physical exercise is just one of the necessary ingredients for improving student scores on standardized tests.

**Now, write a paragraph on the topic of the influence of social media on young people today.**



# 2

## WRITING TECHNIQUES

- The use of **adjectives** and **adverbs** to make your writing more descriptive.

# 3

“The man got in the car. He drove his car to the house. He walked up to the door and knocked on it. The door opened.”

“The man got **quickly** in the car. He drove his car **peacefully** to the **old** house. Then, he walked up to the door **happily** and **swiftly** knocked on it. The door opened **immediately**.”

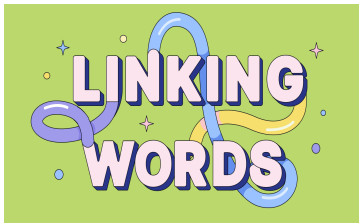
Now, let's change the adverbs:

“The man got in the car **angrily**. He drove his car **frantically** to the **old** house. Then, he walked up to the door **ferociously** and knocked on it **loudly**. The door opened **violently**.”



Make the following paragraph more descriptive. You could also expand it with additional ideas.

*It was summer. The sun was shining. We were having a day out. We walked up the mountain. We got tired. We sat down. We saw a bear among the bushes. (What did you do?) We went home.*



- The following essay is a response to the task 'As English is now the world language and an essential skill in business, English language instruction should begin in kindergarten.', but the paragraphs are mixed-up. Can you put them in the correct order? (Notice the opening phrases used to link the ideas together.)

# 4

A **It's true that** English is very important in international business, and many multinational companies use English as their corporate language. It is also very important in terms of educational opportunities, with many universities now teaching courses in English even in non-English speaking countries, not to mention the information and entertainment available from global media such as Hollywood movies and the Internet. Many people feel that teaching children English from a young age gives children the opportunity to become bi-lingual which would provide them with many advantages in the future. Pre-school children are also obviously very receptive to new language.

B **However**, the real issue is whether children of kindergarten age are mentally ready to start learning a foreign language. It stands to reason that a child who has not mastered their mother tongue will be very confused by exposure to a second unrelated form of communication.

C **Having looked at both sides of this issue**, it seems clear that, although English is very important, educators need to think carefully about the child's overall development when deciding when to introduce English into the curriculum. Doing this too early could result in children being proficient in neither language, and there are also issues of cultural identity that need to be considered.

D **Nowadays**, many people regard English as the main world language and it is certainly true that it is a very important tool for communication between people from different countries. Because of this, many kindergartens now offer English language instruction to children as young as 3, but this the really the best age to start learning a foreign language?

E **On the other hand**, some people might argue that it is a mistake for children's education to focus exclusively on English, particularly as there are other languages, such as Chinese and Spanish that are more widely spoken. In an increasingly multi-polar world other languages clearly have a role to play, for example this week it has been reported that all new foreign executives in China will be required to pass a Chinese proficiency exam. Others would also argue that language represents culture, and that by putting too much emphasis on one language we risk diluting other languages and cultures.

## WRITING TECHNIQUES



**Now, follow the same procedure and try and do this task:** *'Crime in cities is out of control. The government needs to build more prison facilities and fill them with criminals'* To what extent do you agree or disagree? Present your ideas and opinions with examples where necessary. You should write 250 words.

Remember: Analyse the question and underline the keywords.

Brainstorm ideas looking at the issue from both sides.

Make a paragraph plan.

Write the essay.

*Your essay must include:* opinions with reasons, real examples to prove your point, linking expressions to help the reader understand where the essay is going in, paragraphs