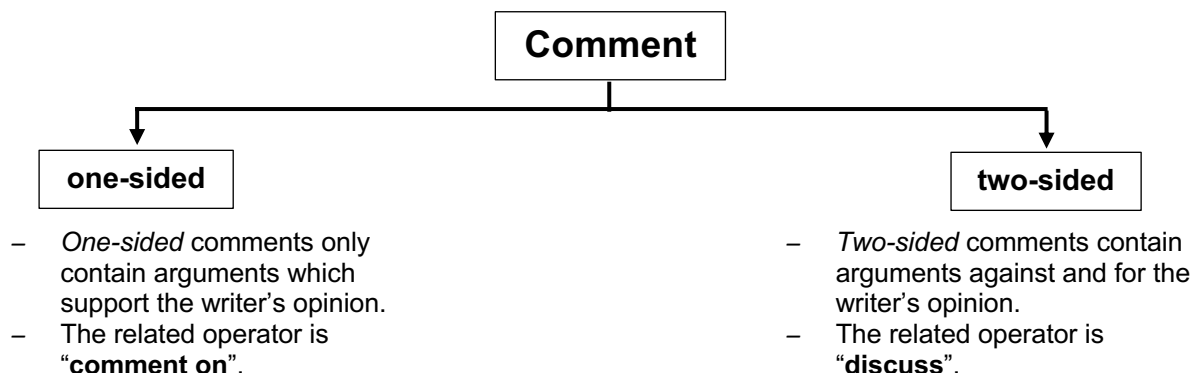


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How to write a free composition

A comment is a written essay in which people express their opinion about a certain topic. This opinion is supported by arguments. There are two types of comments:



Your essay should be structured as follows:

1) Introduction:

1.1. Write a nice and motivating introduction to the topic. There are a few possibilities:

<i>Recent event</i>	<i>Personal experience</i>	<i>Something that everyone can relate to</i>
e.g. Yesterday there was a report in the news about...	e.g. Last week in the train I witnessed...	e.g. Every one of us knows the feeling you have when...

1.2. Then clearly state how you structure your essay.
e.g. First, I will present the positive aspects. In a second step I will take a look at the negative aspects. To conclude I will summarize my arguments and will finally share my personal opinion on this issue.

2) Main part:

- A one-sided comment ("comment on") gives all arguments which support the author's opinion – from strongest to weakest.
- A two-sided comment ("discuss") starts with the strongest argument against the author's opinion ends with the strongest argument supporting his or her opinion
- 1a1p: For each argument use one paragraph
- Quality over quantity = Explain your arguments well. It is better to have less arguments but they are well explained.
- Each argument should consist of the following parts:
 - 1) A claim (= eine Behauptung)
 - 2) An explanation
 - 3) An example
 - 4) A short summary

3) Conclusion:

- 3.1. Summarize your arguments.
- 3.2. State your opinion and which arguments were most important for you to create your own opinion.
- 3.3. A solution for the problem or a very short outlook on a possible future development may be given.

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<i>Useful phrases:</i>	<i>Linking words:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I want to illustrate/ show/ mention/ indicate/ say/ claim that... - My essay is divided into... - I would like to start with... - To make this clear... - My next point is that... - To undermine this point... - This is clearly shown by... - To support this claim... - To sum it up,.../ To recap,... - To put it in a nutshell,... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - However,... - Moreover,... - On the one hand.../ On the other hand... - First, second, third - Additionally,... - In addition to that... - The flipside of the coin is... - Furthermore... - Due to the fact that... - Besides,... - However, it's not all gold that shines!

Vocabulary: Writing a comment

Introduction

English expression	Phrase	German expression
The text is about/ deals with ...	The text is about/deals with micro plastic in the oceans.	Im Text geht es um .../ Der Text handelt von ...
published in ... on ...	The text ... (title) written by ... (author) and published in ... (newspaper) on ... (date) is about ...	veröffentlicht
The cartoon shows ...	The cartoon drawn by ... (cartoonist) shows two people looking at the wide open sea.	Der Cartoon zeigt ...

Giving your opinion

English expression	Phrase	German expression
I think that ...	I think that the author is not right.	Ich denke, dass ...
In my opinion ...	In my opinion people should ...	Meiner Meinung nach ...
I'm sure that ...	I'm sure that things would change soon then.	Ich bin sicher, dass ...
My point of view ...	My point of view is that this is right.	Mein Standpunkt ist ...
I suppose ...	I suppose this solution won't help.	Ich vermute, dass ...
I'm for/against ...	I'm against child labour because ...	Ich bin für/gegen ...

Structuring your arguments

English expression	Phrase	German expression
First(ly), ...	Firstly, one has to say that ...	Zunächst ..., erstens ...
Second(ly), ...	Secondly, one should not forget that ...	Zweitens ...
On the one hand, ... On the other hand, ...	On the one hand, this is positive because ... On the other hand, ...	Einerseits ..., andererseits ...
Furthermore, ...	Furthermore, one can say that ...	Weiterhin .../ Des Weiteren ...
In addition, ...	In addition, one should think about ...	
Nevertheless, ...	Nevertheless, the author is right in saying ...	Dennoch .../ Trotzdem ...
whereas	Electric cars are good, whereas ...	wohingegen
in contrast to	In contrast to the author's opinion ...	im Gegensatz zu
However, ...	However, there are also arguments against ...	Allerdings ...
Alternatively, ...	Alternatively, people could use ...	Alternativ ...

Conclusion

English expression	Phrase	German expression
All in all ...	All in all one can say that ...	Alles in allem ...
To sum up, ...	To sum up, the author is right because ...	Zusammenfassend ...
In conclusion ...	In conclusion I have to say that ...	Abschließend ...