



IIT Madras

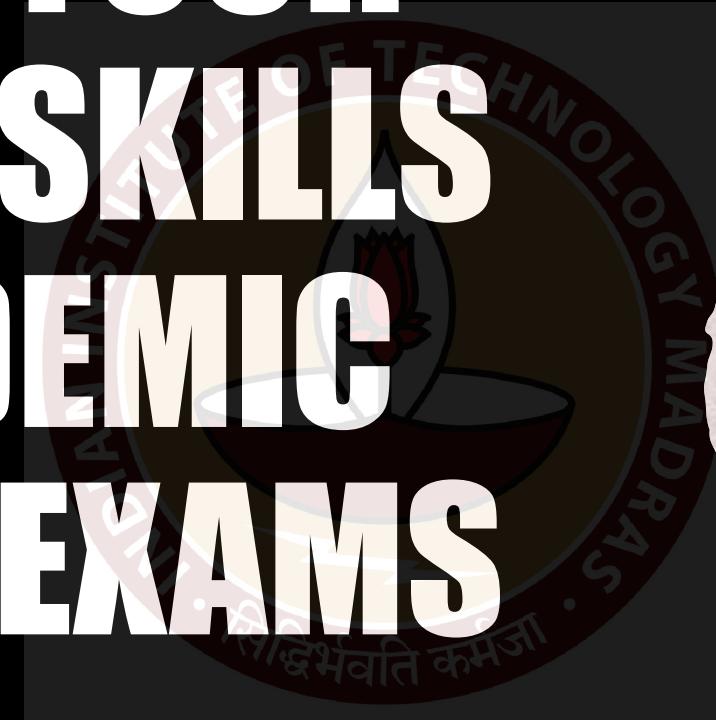
BSc Degree

Copyright and terms of use

IIT Madras is the sole owner of the content available in this portal - onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in and the content is copyrighted to IIT Madras.

- Learners may download copyrighted material for their use for the purpose of the online program only.
- Except as otherwise expressly permitted under copyright law, no use other than for the purpose of the online program is permitted.
- No copying, redistribution, retransmission, publication or exploitation, commercial or otherwise of material will be permitted without the express permission of IIT Madras.
- Learner acknowledges that he/she does not acquire any ownership rights by downloading copyrighted material.
- Learners may not modify, publish, transmit, participate in the transfer or sale, create derivative works, or in any way exploit, any of the content, in whole or in part.

IMPROVE YOUR WRITING SKILLS FOR ACADEMIC WRITING EXAMS

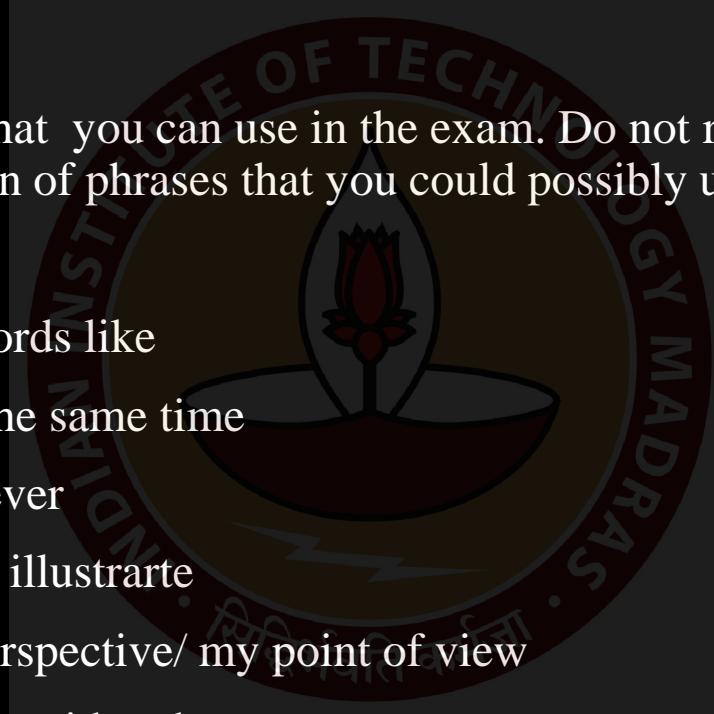


KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN



- Keep it simple : Simple done accurately is better than complicated done inaccurately. It is better to keep things simple and do it well rather than overcomplicate everything and do it badly. Show off your accurate English. Not the English that you are not sure of.

- Prepare set phrases and keywords that you can use in the exam. Do not rehearse what you are going to write. But you do want to have a collection of phrases that you could possibly use if the time arises.
- Have linking words prepared for words like
 - a) Compare – in the same way, at the same time
 - b) Contrast – on the contrary, however
 - c) Give examples – for instance, to illustrate
 - d) Give your opinion – from my perspective/ my point of view
 - e) Generalise – overall, all things considered
 - f) Express certainty – undoubtedly, of course



- a) Express partial agreement – in a way, to some extent
 - b) Show cause – owing to, due to
 - c) Show effect – for this reason, consequently
 - d) Mark time – to begin with, following this,
 - e) Add information – furthermore, moreover
 - f) Express condition – unless, provided that
 - g) Conclude – in summary, in short
-
- Do not use contractions (can't, don't, shan't, I'm, gonna)
 - Reduce your word count : Use as few words as possible
 - a) Avoid deadweight words : very, so, really, a lot
 - b) Replace empty words with strong words: Really happy – elated & so scared – terrified
 - c) Avoid the words “there is/there are” - There are many problems that we may encounter / We may encounter many problems.

- Read the right documents – For scoring well in an academic writing exam, it is important to read the right kind of materials. Are they asking you to write articles, reports, essays? Read accordingly. Do whatever you can to familiarise with all kinds of writing (they expect you to do in the exam)

- Check your work - If you don't check them, you don't see them. Write less and check more; fewer words, higher accuracy. In writing exams, you need perfection.
- Write and get it checked – Find somebody to correct your work after self checking.

