

Sentence auction 1

Appropriate style?

IELTS focus

In this part of the exam, you have to write a composition in a style appropriate for a tutor or examiner. It should be well structured, and has to be at least 250 words.



Some of the extracts below are suitable for this part of the exam, others are not. You have \$500 to buy as many suitable sentences as you can.

- 1 When there is so much terrible poverty in the world, it is incredibly unfair that some people live in idle luxury. ~~X~~
- 2 Tourist guidebooks often focus on the "big sights", and do not give the reader any real insight into the local culture. ✓
- 3 Instead of using cars, it is much, much better to use public transport, such as buses, trains, taxis, aeroplanes, ferries and so on. ~~X~~
- 4 Despite this, the ~~traditional~~ hamburger remains enormously popular, especially with children and teenagers. ~~X~~
- 5 There is considerably more to academic research than simply looking up facts on the internet. ✓
- 6 It is absolutely crazy that the governments of the world cannot find solutions to even the tiniest little problems. ~~X~~
- 7 Regardless of the amount of preparation done beforehand, the unexpected can turn a dream holiday into a nightmare. ✓
- 8 Unemployment is a difficult subject for me to write about, as I have never been unemployed, apart from a few weeks after I left school when I was 18, and as I was living with my parents, I did not need a job. ~~X~~
- 9 Can politicians always be trusted? Or are they often more interested in their own careers? Who can say? ~~X~~
- 10 To dismiss popular music as nothing more than light entertainment is to ignore the role it plays in millions of people's lives. ✓
- 11 My personal opinion is that English is an easier language to learn than German. ✓
- 12 There is no point in having too much violence in films, and anyway, violent films are often boring, too. ~~X~~
- 13 Tourism is a very big industry. In some ways this is good, but in other ways it is bad. ✓
- 14 Being a parent can be stressful, boring and generally extremely difficult, but it can also, of course, be incredibly rewarding. ✓
- 15 In general, therefore, we can conclude that, on the whole, television usually has a positive effect, overall. ~~X~~

Sentence auction 2

Linking words/phrases

IELTS focus

In this part of the exam, you have to write a composition in a style appropriate for a tutor or examiner. It should be well structured, and has to be at least 250 words.



The extracts below contain words and phrases for linking ideas. Some are grammatically correct, others are not. You have \$500 to buy as many correct sentences as you can.

- 1 Despite of the cold, in winter my country is visited by a large number of tourists. ~~X~~
- 2 Even though this sport is relatively dangerous, it is still very popular. ✓
- 3 Talent is hardly never recognised at a very early age. ~~X~~
- 4 But for his hard work, he would never have passed the exam. ✓
- 5 Although widely known to be bad for the health, smoking is actually increasing in popularity in some countries. ~~X~~
- 6 Not only he was a gifted musician, but also he was talented as a sculptor. ✓
- 7 Some people watch several hours of television a day, in spite the fact that the quality of the programmes is not high. ~~X~~
- 8 Salaries for teachers have risen considerably over the last twenty years. Nevertheless, many people still feel that they should be paid more. ✓
- 9 Beside needing a lot of looking after, pets can also be quite expensive to keep. ✓
- 10 According to some, prison is an effective deterrent to crime. Others, however, feel that prisons act as "schools for criminals", and may even increase crime. ✓
- 11 People who live in villages usually know their neighbours, whereas while the inhabitants of towns often have no idea who lives next door. ~~X~~
- 12 Neither governments nor charities have been able to solve this problem. ✓
- 13 In addition to traditional subjects, many schools in my country also teach skills such as cooking, car maintenance and using the internet. ✓
- 14 I would never consider buying expensive designer clothes, even I had a lot of money. ✓
- 15 Both of the road system and the railway network have improved in recent years. ✓
- 16 It is difficult to predict what will happen. In any case, the situation is unlikely to change in the near future. ✓
- 17 Skiing is a very popular sport, even although it is often extremely expensive. ~~X~~

Sentence auction 3

Fixed and semi-fixed expressions

IELTS focus

In this part of the exam, you have to write a composition in a style appropriate for a tutor or examiner. It should be well structured, and has to be at least 250 words.



The extracts below contain useful phrases for writing essays. Some are correct, others are slightly wrong. You have \$500 to buy as many correct sentences as you can.

- 1 There is nothing wrong with computer games except from the fact that, in a few cases, they can become addictive. **AS**
- 2 Generally to speak, advertising campaigns increase sales. **F**
- 3 While it is true to say that the city is noisy, dirty and overcrowded, it is nevertheless a very interesting place to visit. **S**
- 4 More and more and more people are travelling abroad for their holidays. **F**
- 5 Travelling by air tends to be much more expensive than travelling by land or sea. **F**
- 6 According to most scientists, the temperature of the earth is rising because of pollution. **F**
- 7 According to me, friendship is one of the most important things in life, and also one of the most difficult. **F**
- 8 There are a number of ways in which the situation could have been improved without major expense. **F**
- 9 Examinations provide evidence of hard work and intelligence. In the other hand, they can be stressful, and sometimes prove only that a person is good at taking examinations. **S**
- 10 For the whole, it is more enjoyable to watch a film in the cinema rather than on television. **F**
- 11 A lot of stress is due to problems at work. **F**
- 12 Traffic increases every year. As the results of this, traffic jams are now very common. **F**
- 13 In my opinion, after a week or so, going to the beach every day can become very dull, especially if you are not a fan of sunbathing. **F**
- 14 It is sometimes suggested that space exploration is a waste of time and money. **S**
- 15 For them who like spicy food, the cuisine of my country is one of the finest in the world. **F**
- 16 People are made to feel inferior for no reason other than that they are not wearing the latest fashions. **F**
- 17 Although most people think they are good drivers, for reality, a lot of driving is dangerous and irresponsible. **S**