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BSc Degree

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English –II (Advanced English)
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Writing to Argue- II

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WRITING TO ARGUE-II
HOME ALONE

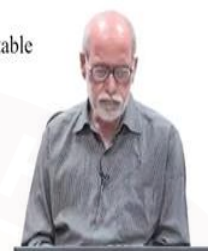


Hello and welcome again to this, the next session of the advanced writing module as part of this course in English. We began talking about writing to argue, and we saw that when we write in support of or against some topic or the other, one part of the issue or the other, then we use a certain kind of language.

We continue this presentation here in this session today, and we will see two things today. Number one, how are usually arguments is structured and number two, what kind of syntax, what kind of sentences are used in writing for argument or even while speaking to argue. And we are going to take, as we did last time, some extracts from some video and some, sorry, some video clip and examples from some written document to make our point. Please pay attention. Next.

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- So is the structure of argument
- Usually, statement of situation is given first, followed by arguments for one side against the other.
- But third or fourth paragraph it is arguments in favour of the other side and against the one stated earlier.
- Final part usually takes an overview and reaches an acceptable conclusion.



The structure of an argument is important, just as language is; so is the structure of argument. How you bring in, what you have to say. Do you do bring your best point in the beginning? Say, for example, are you in favour of parents staying, one of the parents staying at home? and you say that out loud in the very beginning, that is one choice.

A lot of people say that, well, I am for this. I am for mothers staying at home. It may be boring, it may be uneconomical, but this is the best way, time tested way to raise a kid. Some people can say the same thing maybe at the end. So finally, I am sure no one has any doubts that one parent must stay home and this must be the mother.

Some bring it somewhere in the middle. Now that we have looked at some evidence, some facts, we have found that a number of fathers at least 17 percent of fathers has stayed home; but these fathers has stayed even while they were at home, they spend time on their cell phones, on computer games and doing other things and the child hurt itself and it was almost like not having a parent home.

Whereas we studied the mothers and we found that regardless of their personal hobbies, mothers paid the best attention to the child, spent time with the child, did also other work at the household; so, it seems mothers are naturally gifted to the better caregivers, better care providers, for children and they should be home. Sorry, these are not my personal views, please.

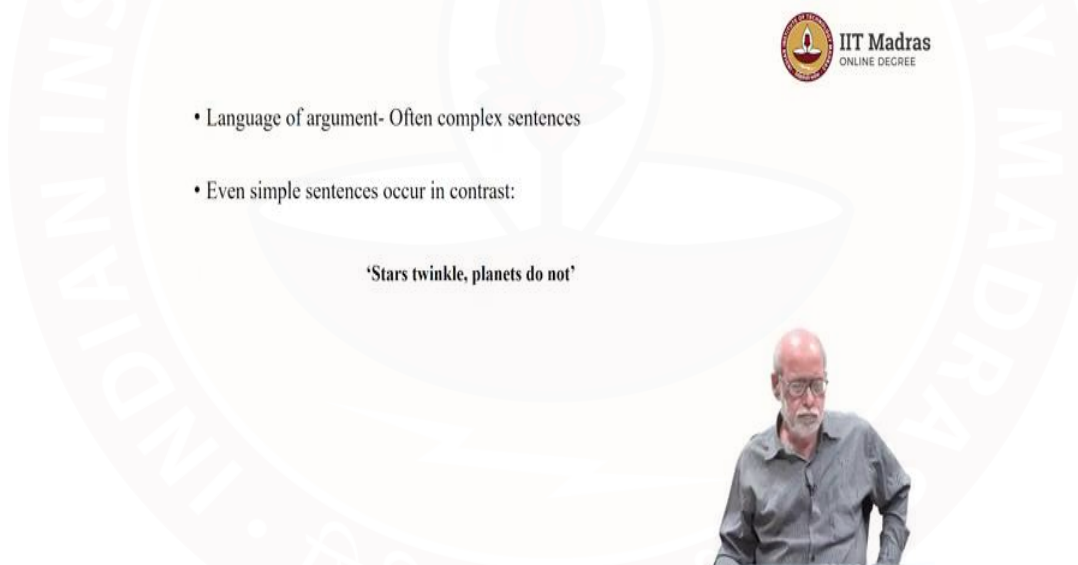
But arguments are often structured in this manner with or without statistics, with or without anecdotal support; it is a choice every author, it is a choice every speaker has, how you make your case; but a structure has to be there. Before you start writing, before you start speaking,

you have to decide what you are going to say first, what you are going to say next and what you are going to say last.

Are you going to paraphrase? Are you going to recapitulate? Are you going to rewind and listen and represent? All these choices are yours. The only constraint is all good presenters, all good lawyers, all good advocates, all good activists keep the listeners' interest in mind. Are the listeners bored? Are the listeners tired, fatigued? Have they already begun praying that our presentation ended?

So do not do that; that will be the best way to lose your argument. The best way is to keep it interesting, short and sweet. Illustrate it with examples. Occasionally bring some statistical evidence and structure your argument such that you will make the point, you make the valid point and not be biased, either this side or that side; that is the best way to write the best essay. Next.

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The slide features the IIT Madras Online Degree logo in the top right corner. The main content consists of two bullet points and a quote. In the bottom right corner, there is a small video inset showing a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a grey shirt, speaking.

- Language of argument- Often complex sentences
- Even simple sentences occur in contrast:

'Stars twinkle, planets do not'

Language of argument, we began talking about it in the earlier session, we will look at some more examples. See, very often, documents of this kind use complex sentences two clause, three clause sentences. I mean, you know, any parent, either of the two parents can stay home; that is one clause, not a sentence as intended. Either of the two parents, either of the parents, either parent can stay home comma, but the best care has been given by mothers.

One can also say while there have been lots of studies saying that fathers are not the best caregivers comma there however, are nearly 13 percent fathers who gave better care to the child than perhaps any mother could. Their studies, some 373 fathers were observed, and it

was found that almost 280 of them played with the child, took the child out, had sports, had a conversation, so the child's language developed.

The point I am making is not that you should speak this way or that; the point is, arguments can be structured this way. Look at the syntax, while, whereas, if, then. This is, there are lots of complex sentences. You should have a very good grip on syntax, so that you present arguments concisely, precisely, and effectively.

Sometimes, even simple sentences, but they are used in contrast. What I have before me is a well-known example from a well-known writer. Jawaharlal Nehru, writing to his daughter while she was very young. So, he said, he is introducing the cosmos to his daughter, and he writes two simple sentences, but contrasting against each other. Star twinkle, planets do not. Each sentence, each clause is simple, but together they make a complex sentence.

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- Basically, this is how an essay making arguments is structured. Examples can often be statistical at larger policy levels.
- But similar occasions in social circles among friends and family have anecdotal rather than a statistical evidence.
- Then there are languages issues.

So, quite often, the documents, so basically, this is how an essay making arguments or presenting arguments is structured. Examples once again can be statistical at larger policy levels, when you are talking for a state when you are talking for a big corporate organization, but at a personal, informal level.

Some statistics may be all right, but it is anecdotal. Just as at the corporate level, some anecdotal argument evidence can also come in but build your structure accordingly. A mix of, a judicious mix of how much of what; like salt in sambar, do not have too much of X or Y. But similar occasions in social circles among friends and family have anecdotal rather than statistical evidence. What kinds of language? let us see.

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Documents of this kind often have complex sentences using:

1. If..., then....
2. While..., this....
3. Whereas..., there...
4. As..., so...



You can have an abundance of clauses with: if x y happens, then a b c would hold. While m and y were going this t and y was sleeping or whereas, there; as you reap; as you sow, so you reap goes a famous adage. Next.

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LOOK AT THE EXTRACT



If this seems contradictory (why would a parent in a two-income household believe their life choices were damaging to their children?), **(then)** keep in mind that the past few decades have seen a sea change in working parenthood. In 1970, **only** about a third of households — 31 percent — had two parents working. **At that time**, the most common arrangement **by far** was that the father worked full-time **while** the mother stayed home. **So** it's possible (okay, likely) **that** attitudes haven't caught up with the times.



Look at this extract from a real document. What do you find? You find things like, "if this seems contradictory", that why would a parent in two-income household believe their life choices were damaging to their children. Then is not written there, but every sentence that begins with an if implies the presence of then. It is like you in the imperative sentence. You do not say you open the window, but it is implied when you say "open the window, please", that means, you are saying you open the window please. Similarly, then is implied here.

So, keep in mind that the past few decades have seen or see change in working parenthood, etc., etc. And once again, like happens in arguments, you can have lots of words referring to numbers without giving numbers. Like see change, change what percentage that is idiomatic, it means big change, but the numbers are not given.

So quite often 31 percent; 31 percent of how many? Only about a third of households. A third of how many? At that time, the contrast comes by far while, so, as or so, that, this is the structure of a document presenting argument, and we should have enough practice. How do you learn these things? As I have been saying, you learn these things, partly by hearing, partly by listening.

We are grateful that you have found us worthy of your attention and you are doing this course, but I must also tell you, that only by listening to us the best learning will not happen. The best learning will happen when you will go to write, create some documents of your own after listening to us using real-life examples. Go next.

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Let's **set aside** the fact that not every family consists of a mother and a father today, and **let's even** set aside the fact that plenty of children are raised by one parent, not two. The data **as presented here** — that most parents work but continue to hold forth an ideal that the mom should stay home because it's best for the children — **completely ignores** reality. **For many families**, it's **just not** economically feasible for one parent to stay home full-time with children. In the U.S., families aren't supported in all the ways that they could — and arguably, should — be. School days involve weird hours, child care is expensive, and wages for one person working full-time do not add up to what they did 30 years ago.

And, **moreover**, what exactly are we basing our concept of "best for the child" on, anyway? Is this even borne out by research? What we do know is that going to preschool is very good for children, and this means spending some time, **at least**, away from home.



Look at this extract, find examples. These are those words, which are there only because this document presents an argument. If this document were telling a story: "there was a king who had three daughters", then these expressions will not be there. Go next.

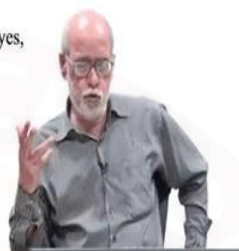
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ACTIVITY



Write an essay on the following topics in no more than 200 words:

1. Should big chain stores be allowed into selling domestic items on global levels?
2. Must a child be taught in English from the time of birth. Some say yes, some say no. As children you learn a language best, some say; but this robs you of your mother tongue, others say. What is your opinion on the subject. Examine a related issue.
3. Should the state have power to control our private lives. Some say yes, some say no.



It is time you wrote, you produce your own document presenting an argument. So, we have given you some topics. Take one, so for example, write an essay on one of the following topics and you can think of many more topics of this kind. So, for example one, a lot of people are saying that big chain stores should not be allowed into retail marketing of domestic items, every consumption item like vegetables, fruits, milk, meat, fresh, bread that sort of thing. Do you agree?

That there should be big global giants, multinationals should be banned in this area. Why? Why not? Find argument or you can take another topic. Must a child be taught in English from the time of its birth? Many people say yes. And they say that since children are good at learning anything and since English is nearly inevitable, no matter what you do in today's world, you got to know English, otherwise, you cannot look at a global audience and a good job or even good marriage people say. So, they say all children should have English from the very first day.

There are however others, who would differ, who say no. We will be depriving children of their chance to learn a mother tongue, an entire culture, another language, a foreign language, a second language can also be learned a little later. Maybe as well or maybe a little less, but why deprive them of an entire culture, which they can inherit for no special and no extra effort?

So, there are arguments on both sides. What is your opinion on the subject? Examine the issues, present arguments and ideas and examples in support of both and then present your conclusion, what you think will be the best to do? So, examine-related issues, this is how you

will learn. And as I said before, not one draft, not two drafts, do as many drafts as you can, and until you feel and now this can improve no further, and then you can share it with your friends, with your reviewers, with your teachers, with us, for comments and opinions or go to another topic.

A lot of people say that the state should have absolute power on public roads, on streets in public life, but why should the state bother about what we do at home? What we talk about who we talk to what language unless I hurt others? There are opinions. There are people in one kind of culture who say, no, what you do at home also influences public life.

Therefore, the state should have that power to, just as it has an obligation to protect you at home, it should also have the power to see how you live at your home. On the other hand, there are those who say no state's responsibility and a state's power ends in public domain. What do you feel?

Take any of these topics and argue on both sides in about 200 words, check your drafts and you will find that you are writing better, your worldview has grown, and you are able to not only write better, you are also able to talk better. Next.

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Model Answer



Globalisation has led to a revolution in the way trade is carried out. Whether such sea change is welcome in sectors such as domestic retail is often in question.

Big chain stores being permitted to sell domestic items on a global level taps the potential of local markets and connects them worldwide. Every link in the global market stands to gain from this - domestic producers have a bigger market, vendors have a diverse consumer base, consumers get a variety of goods to choose from, local markets get linked to the global market and nation-states improve diplomatic bonds through the exchange of

While everyone that is part of the global market may benefit from this exchange, those outside of it may stand to lose much from domestic items being sold by big chain stores. Competitive global market rate may be less than domestic rate, causing local vendors to lose their consumer base. Unable to keep up with the pace of large retail chains, traditional economies risk downfall.



However, permitting global chain stores into domestic retail is the way to go as long as the risks are averted through sustained effort to integrate traditional economies with the global market.



We are going to give you; but do not look at it just now. First, do your own work then compare your work with the synopsis or with the samples that we going to give. If you feel you have not done as well, rewrite it, do it again. And you will find that in this kind of write and rewrite, one draft and then doing another revising not only your worldview, not only your language, but your total makeup as an intellectual grows. Thank you very much.