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# **STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY EXERCISE**

### Changing English : the African American Influence

If you ask average Americans where their language comes from, they will probably say 'England'. However, English vocabulary has also been influenced by other countries and groups of people. Some words are borrowed from other languages, such as typhoon, which originally came from the Chinese word, 'tai-fung', meaning 'big wind'. Skunk, the name of a small, smelly, black-and-white animal, came to English from a Native American language. African Americans, too, have both contributed new words to English and changed the meanings of some existing words.

African Americans, many of whose ancestors were brought to the states as slaves hundreds of years ago, have introduced a number of words to English from languages that they spoke in their native countries. The common English word OK is used around the world today, but it was not always part of English vocabulary. One theory is that slaves in America used a phrase in their own language that sounded like OK to mean 'all right'. Americans heard the phrase and started using it. Today, almost everyone in the world uses OK to mean 'all right'. Another good example of a new word is the word jazz. African American musicians living in the US began playing jazz music in the city of New Orleans, and they used the word jass or jazz to describe the music and certain kinds of dancing. No one is sure where the word originally came from, but as jazz music became more and more



popular, the word jazz became a common English word.

The meanings of words sometimes change over time.

The word cool is a good example. Cool has been used in English for a long time to describe a temperature that is 'not warm but not too cold' or to describe a person who is 'calm or unemotional'. However, an additional meaning was given to the word cool in the past 100 years. Just like the word jazz, African American musicians used the word cool to describe the music they were playing. For them, cool meant 'good'. As jazz music and other forms of music played by African American musicians became popular, more and more people started to use the word cool in conversation. Today, it is still a commonly used word, especially by younger people, to mean 'good' or 'great'. A word with the opposite meaning of cool is square. Square is, of course, a shape, but it also is used to describe a person who is not cool. This may be because a person who is too old-fashioned and not flexible is like a shape with four straight sides and four corners.

English owes some of its interesting and colorful vocabulary to African Americans. Existing ethnic groups in the US as well as new immigrants will surely continue to bring new words to English and give fresh meanings to existing words. Who knows what the 'cool' words of tomorrow will be?

Introduction : Paragraph 1

Main body : Paragraph 2 & 3

Conclusion : Paragraph 4



Read this thesis statements below. Write V (strong thesis statement), F (fact only -- a weak thesis statement), or N (no clear opinion -- a weak thesis statement).

- a) F. The top government official in my country is the prime minister.
- b) N. Some people prefer digital cameras, while others like traditional cameras.
- c) F. India became an independent country in 1947.
- d) V. To be a successful student, good study habits are more important than intelligence.
- e) N. There are several advantages of owning a car, but there are also many disadvantages.
- f) F. Half of the families in my country own a house.
- g) V. Using public transport would be one of the best ways to solve the traffic and pollution problems in cities around the world.
- h) N. While travelling, staying in hotel offers more comfort, but sleeping in a tent is less expensive.
- i) F. Classical music concerts are very popular in my country.
- j) V. In order to create a successful advertisement, it is necessary to consider three issues: who should be targeted, where the advert should be placed, and what type of advert should be made.

# **INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION EXERCISE**

**6 Match each of these introduction thesis statements with its rewritten version for a conclusion.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>a. <b>3</b> ..... Supermarkets are the best places to buy food because of their convenience and lower prices.</p>              | <p>1. People can learn many things by travelling to other countries.</p>  |
| <p>b. <b>1</b> ..... Travelling abroad is a valuable learning experience.</p>   | <p>2. Despite the challenges, being an entrepreneur can offer more benefits than other types of employment.</p>                               |
| <p>c. <b>5</b> ..... Learning to play a musical instrument is very beneficial for children.</p>                                   | <p>3. The fact that larger supermarkets offer cheap prices and a large selection of products makes them the best place for shoppers.</p>      |
| <p>d. <b>2</b> ..... Creating and owning a business offers more advantages than working as an employee in a company.</p>          | <p>4. The World Wide Web gives access to a huge amount of knowledge, but users shouldn't believe everything they read there.</p>              |
| <p>e. <b>6</b> ..... More houses should be adapted to use solar energy because it is clean and renewable.</p>                     | <p>5. When children are exposed to music and are taught to play instruments such as the piano or violin, there are many positive effects.</p> |
| <p>f. <b>4</b> ..... The World Wide Web can be very useful for research, but it also contains a lot of incorrect information.</p> | <p>6. The sun gives a constant, free supply of clean energy, which more homes should take advantage of.</p>                                   |



# **OUTLINING AN ESSAY EXERCISE**



## 2. The Changing Vocabulary of English

I. Thesis statement: English vocabulary is influenced by the African American culture

### II. Word Introduced by African American Slaves

#### A. OK / Okay

1. From African language
2. Now used all over the world to mean all right.

#### B. Jazz

1. Jazz came from New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
2. Exact origin unknown.

### III. Word changes over time

#### A. Cool

1. Used to describe temperature that not too hot or too cold.
2. ~~Square~~ Now it means a calm and unemotional person or even 'good' or 'great'.

#### B. Square

1. Square is obviously a name of a shape
2. Now it means a person who's not 'cool' or 'uptight'.

IV. English owes some of its interesting and colorful vocabulary to African American: Existing ethnic groups in the US as well as new immigrants will certainly continue to bring new words to English and give fresh meaning to existing words.

## Exercise 1.

Title: The Benefits of Yoga.

- a. S Develops clear thinking
- b. M Physical benefits
- c. S Improves concentration
- d. S Reduce Fear, anger, and worry
- e. M Mental benefits
- f. S Improves blood circulation
- g. S Improves digestion
- h. S Helps you feel calm and peaceful
- i. S Develops self-confidence
- j. I Doing yoga regularly can be good for your mind, your body and your emotions.
- k. S Makes you strong and flexible
- l. C Therefore, to build mental, physical, and emotional health, consider doing yoga
- m. M Emotional benefits

I. Doing yoga regularly can be good for your mind, your body and your emotions.

II. Mental benefits → A. Develops clear thinking  
B. Improves concentration

III. Physical benefits → A. Makes you strong and flexible  
B. Improves blood circulation  
C. Improves digestion.

IV. Emotional benefits → A. Develops self-confidence  
B. Reduce fear, anger and worry  
C. Helps you feel calm and peaceful

V. Therefore, to build mental, ~~health~~ physical, and emotional health, consider doing yoga.



1) a. Paragraph 1 : I visit the traditional Chinese doctor in our city

— " — 2 : Modern medicine focuses on illness

— " — 3 : Instead of focusing on a patient's health problems, Chinese medicine tries to make the patient's whole body well again.

— " — 4 : Chinese medicine definitely works for some health problems.

b. For a very serious health problem, I would probably visit a modern hospital, but the next time I catch a cold, I am going back to the Chinese doctor.

c. Paragraph 2 : \* The philosophy of modern medicine

\* stop problem as quick as possible

\* western doctor see illness as an enemy.

— " — 3 : \* Chinese medicine tries to make whole body ~~well~~ well again

\* yin and yang energy

\* doctor gives a mixture of herbs instead of a medicine.

2. Last Paragraph : He was twenty seven years old at this time, and he studied at a school for deaf students in Paris for several months.



- 3) Exercise 1 page 79 : point-to-point / black style  
Exercise 2 page 81 : by time or orders of events.

4) 1. Instead

2. For instance --- however

3. In particular

4. on the other hand

5. Therefore

- 7 This paragraph needs more connection. Revise it. Then share your version with other classmates.

## Ho Chi Minh City



Ho Chi Minh City, in Vietnam, is a fascinating destination for travellers to Southeast Asia. It is located on the Mekong River. It was once an important trading center for the French in Southeast Asia. **AND** The influence of French culture can still be felt. **FOR EXAMPLE**, Many people, especially the older generations, learned French in school and still can speak it very well. **ALSO**, Some cafés serve French-style bread and pastries in Ho Chi Minh City. **SIMILARLY** Expensive hotels and restaurants serve French food. **IN ADDITION**, Many of the buildings in the city are built in French style. **AFTER** The Vietnamese and the French fought. **AND** The French eventually left the country. **BUT** There are museums and monuments documenting the country's long—and often bloody— history. **THEREFORE** If you are looking for a unique city to visit in Southeast Asia, Ho Chi Minh City is an attractive choice.



11. a. 1. before  
b. 2. when  
c. 3. when  
d. 2. but  
e. 1. and, but  
f. 3. until

12. Buah jatuh tidak jauh dari pohonnya

↓

Like father, like son.

Jangan menilai seseorang dari penampilanya

↓

Don't judge a book by it's cover.

Don't judge a book by it's cover means one shouldn't ~~prejudge~~ ~~prejudge~~ pre-judge the worth or value OF something by its outward appearance alone.



**ESSAY**

## Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet

Today's progress makes internet access easier, whether through smartphones, laptops, or computers. No wonder there are many young people who spend more time playing the internet. Actually, is the internet good or bad for young people? One of advantages of the internet is that it is now easier and faster to find resources for school and homework. This also makes young people get more knowledge that cannot be obtained at school.

Another benefit of the internet is that it can learn other foreign languages easily. The reason is, we can chat and chat with various people in this part of the world. The internet is also the best way to connect with family or friends far away.

Unfortunately, the internet has a bad impact. One of them is that young people are now becoming more addicted to playing the internet.

This made them lose much of their youth. Of course, this will greatly affect school work to their social life. Even most young people who are addicted to the internet rarely spend time with family because they are busy at the computer.

It can be concluded that the internet for the current generation may have benefits, but also seen the negative impact it provides. personally, the internet is the best creation and accessing the internet is able to avoid danger. However, as a young child also must limit the use of the internet so as not to overdo it.