

UNIT 6

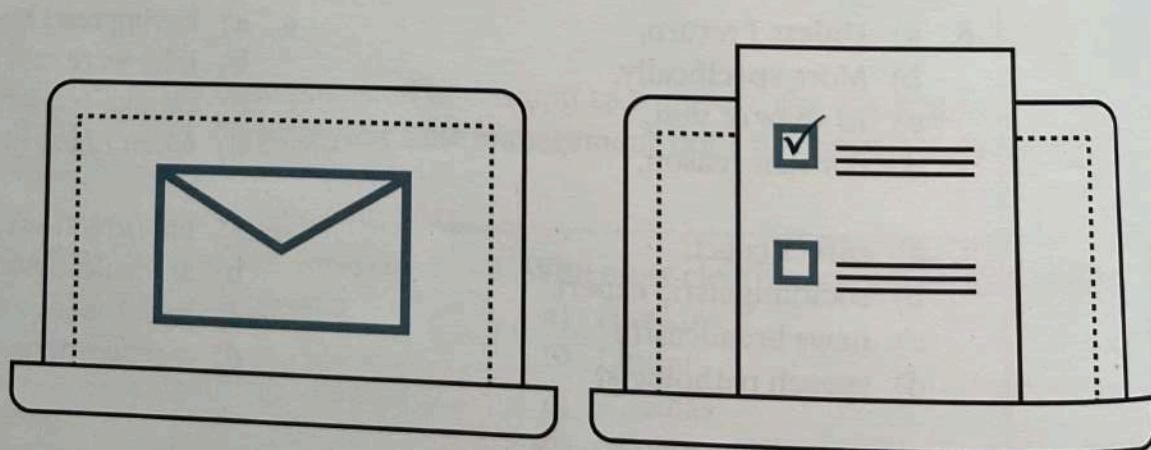
Overview of the Writing Test

LEARNING FOCUS

- Format of the Writing Test
- Scoring
- Improving your writing

The Writing Test measures your ability to communicate in ordinary day-to-day situations. It is made up of two tasks: writing an email and responding to survey questions. In Task 1, you may be asked, for example, to write an email complaining about a restaurant experience or requesting time off from your job. In Task 2, you will be asked to select one of two options and explain your preference. Examples of survey topics include childcare in the workplace or proposed changes to a school lunch program.

In this unit, you will become familiar with the overall format of the Writing Test. You will also learn about the four categories of the performance standards used by CELPIP Raters to assess your writing.



1 Writing Task: Writing an Email

2 Read the following information.

You recently forgot your watch at the gym. The watch is important to you because it was a gift from your grandparents.

3

Time remaining: 27 minutes 0 sec

4

NEXT

- 1 Write an email to the manager of your gym in about 150-200 words. Your email should do the following things:

5

- Explain where you left the watch.
- Describe why it is important that you get your watch back.
- Explain how you may be contacted if the watch is found.

6

Type your response here.

7

You can use the spelchek function!

8

10 words

- ① Title reminds you where you are in test.
- ② Important background information is always on left.
- ③ Countdown timer shows how much time you have left for this page. When timer reaches zero, test will move to next part.
- ④ Use NEXT button to move to next part before timer reaches zero. You cannot move back.
- ⑤ You will always be asked to do three or four things, or choose between two options.
- ⑥ This is the typing area.
- ⑦ Basic editing tools make it easier to organize content, rework phrases and sentences, and correct mistakes. There are six editing functions: spell check, cut, paste, delete, undo, and redo.
- ⑧ The computer counts your words.

 **Format of the Writing Test**

Each writing screen has the same basic format.

WRITING TASK	DESCRIPTION	WORD COUNT
Writing an Email	• Write an email about a common matter.	150–200 words
Responding to Survey Questions	• Respond to a survey question regarding workplace or community issues, and give reasons for your choice.	150–200 words
TOTAL TIME	About 1 hour	

 **Tip**

- Read all instructions to the right of this “instructions” symbol  very carefully.
- Each task is the same length.
- These are not essays; they are writing tasks related to your home or work life.
- Once you move to Task 2, you cannot return to Task 1.
- You cannot add unused time from Task 1 to Task 2.

 **Scoring**

Each task is worth 50% of your final Writing score. CELPIP Raters assess your writing in these four categories:

Content/Coherence:	Quality of ideas and how well they flow together
Vocabulary:	Selection and use of vocabulary, phrases, and idioms
Readability:	Understandability and fluency in your writing
Task Fulfillment:	Completion of all task requirements

The list below identifies the key features of each of these four categories that contribute to a high-scoring response.

Content/Coherence

- Ideas are strong and relevant.
- Ideas are clear, well organized, and easy to follow.
- Ideas have been combined effectively, with supporting details, to form a meaningful and coherent response.

Vocabulary

- Vocabulary demonstrates a range of suitable words and phrases.
- Words and phrases have been combined effectively to express precise meaning.
- Selected words and phrases support easy understanding.

Readability

- Response demonstrates good control of spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- Response includes a variety of sentence types.
- Response includes appropriate paragraphing, formatting, and use of connectors and transitions.

Task Fulfillment

- Response addresses all parts of the task and follows the given instructions.
- Tone is appropriate for the situation.
- Overall purpose of the task has been achieved within the given word count.



Improving Your Writing

In preparing for the Writing Test, there are various ways to improve your skills. Practice writing as often as you can, whether it's in the form of emails to friends, family, or co-workers; or even a diary or blog. In addition, you may wish to keep a daily journal of new English words and phrases that you've learned. Review these terms frequently, and try to use them in your writing whenever you can; this will help increase your range of vocabulary.

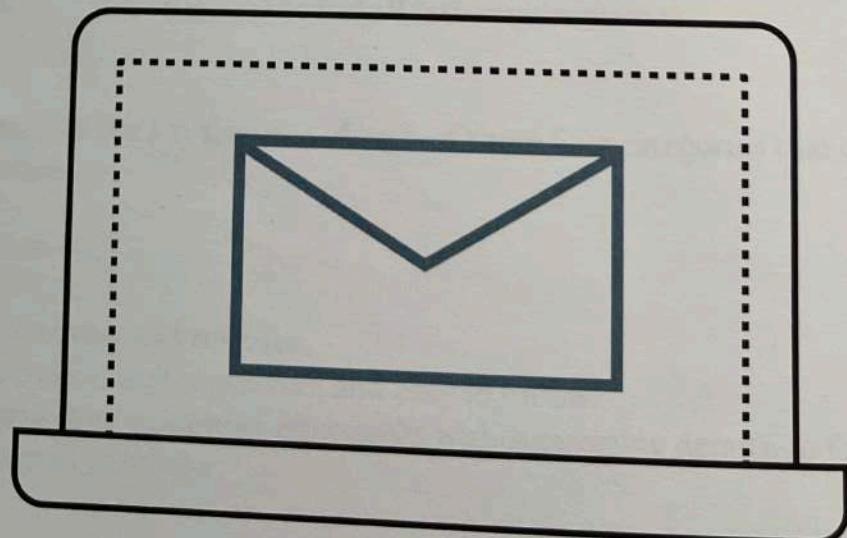
UNIT 7

Writing an Email

LEARNING FOCUS

- Formatting your message
- Relating tone, task, and register
- Creating an outline
- Staying on topic
- Demonstrating range of vocabulary
- Using time sequencers and conjunctions
- Correcting your errors

In Writing Task 1: Writing an Email, you are given a short description of a situation together with specific instructions in bullet point format. Look at the infographic on the next page to learn more about these two parts of the task. Before you start planning and writing, use the information in the description and instructions to decide on the purpose, approach, content, and tone of your message.



Writing Task 1: Writing an Email

3

Time remaining: 27 minutes 0 sec

4

NEXT

- 1 ① Read the following information.

- 2 You live in an apartment building that has a no-dogs policy. Renters are only allowed to have cats. You moved into the building a few months ago, and you keep hearing a dog barking in the next-door apartment, especially at night.

- ① Write an email to your building manager in about 150-200 words. Your email should do the following things:

5

- Explain what you are experiencing.
- Complain about the dogs in the building.
- Suggest how the problem should be solved.

Type your response here.

4 words

- ① This section will describe the situation you will be writing about.
- ② You must assume this role when you write.
- ③ Keep an eye on this timer so you have enough time to properly plan, write, and edit your work.
- ④ This section will explain to whom you are writing.
- ⑤ You will have three or four things to do in your message.



Formatting Your Message

In Writing Task 1, you will be writing an email regarding day-to-day matters. Since you are expected to write 150–200 words, your response should include paragraphing and standard email conventions, including the five components shown below.

[i] Dear Team Members,

i. GREETING

[ii] As you are all aware, we will be travelling to Calgary this November for a series of meetings. I have been directed to take charge of the trip so I am writing to share our travel plans and business goals.

ii. OPENER

[iii] We will be attending the annual meeting for residential realtors and meeting individually with four of the biggest Calgary real estate companies while we are there. Some of you were on the Montreal trip last year, and you may remember what a great time we had at the gala dinner. There was an outstanding jazz band and the wine was flowing all evening!

iii. BODY

In any case, we'll be travelling by plane, leaving on November 24 and returning November 28. I wish we could take the train because the scenery would be breathtaking and it would be a fun trip. However, the train takes 24 hours while the plane is just 1 hour, so obviously we'll have to fly.

In Calgary, we'll be staying downtown at the Palliser Hotel. This is one of the oldest buildings in the city and it's a four-star hotel, so we will be very comfortable and we'll be able to access local transportation very easily. The hotel has incredibly comfortable beds and an affordable pub, so we can continue our drinking traditions after our meetings.

iv. CLOSER

During our leisure time, it will be possible for us to relax without travelling far.

[iv] I look forward to another great business trip together!

[v] With best wishes,

Jake Harkness

v. SIGN-OFF

**Tip** Follow standard email format:

- Add a comma after your Greeting and Sign-off.
- Leave a line space before and after each paragraph, or indent 5 spaces
- Stay on topic within each paragraph.

Notice how the Greeting and Opener are different:

GREETING:

This is the salutation and it comes first.

OPENER:

This “opens” the body of the email by introducing the reason for the message and getting the reader’s attention. It comes at the beginning of the first paragraph.

The **BODY** makes up most of your message and comes between the Opener and the Closer. It contains your main points and supporting details.

The Closer and Sign-off both come at the end:

CLOSER:

This “closes” the body of the email by summarizing what has been said and/or stating what kind of action or response the writer is hoping for. It comes at the end of the last paragraph.

SIGN-OFF:

This comes after the body of the email and just before the writer’s name. It ends the email.

A line space is used between all email components.

**Activity 1**

The writer of the test response below did not use correct email format. Without looking back at the example response, identify the components of the message by circling each of them.

Rewrite the message so that you can create three paragraphs, change or add punctuation to the Greeting and Sign-off if required, and add line spaces where needed.

Dear Building Manager! I am writing to make a complaint about a problem that I am currently experiencing in apartment 214. I’m sure you are aware of the no-dogs policy in the building. Over the last week I have heard a dog barking at various times throughout the day; however, it is loudest and most disturbing at night. I think that it sounds like the dog is in the apartment next door to mine. If you could arrange to make a visit to the apartment during the daytime, I am sure that you will see that there is a dog kept in the apartment and then you could have a discussion with the renters about the dog’s removal. I would be grateful for your action on this matter as soon as possible, as it is disrupting my sleep and my family’s sleep as well. If this problem isn’t resolved soon, I’m afraid that I’ll have to contact the local bylaw office. Sincerely

Relating Tone, Task, and Register

Tone

Tone is your attitude about the situation as expressed through your opinion and word choice. Your tone depends on whom you are writing to, why you are writing, and your intentions. You will need a good understanding of the situation to determine which tone is the most suitable.

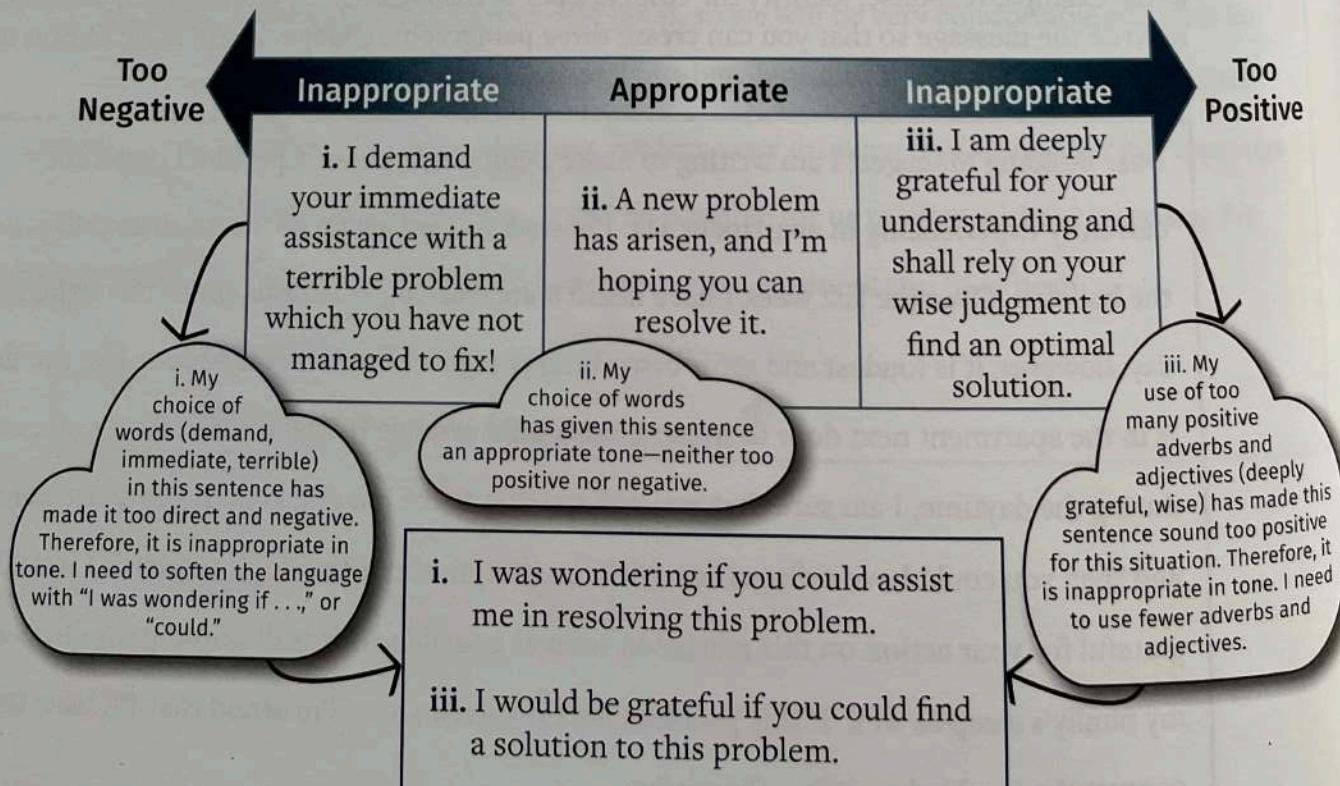
Activity 2A

Look at the list of tones in the box below and decide whether they are positive or negative.

Respectful	Sarcastic	Optimistic	Helpful
Enthusiastic	Aggressive	Pessimistic	Co-operative
Critical	Insulting	Understanding	Angry
Complimentary	Arrogant	Defensive	Sincere

Negative Tone	Positive Tone

Tone depends on the context. When the tone is inappropriate, it may mean that it is either too positive or too negative for the given situation. For the chart below, refer to Writing Task 1 on page 53 for the context. Below, you will see the thinking process of a higher-level test taker as he reviews three variations of a sentence. Look at how the sentences have been improved.





Activity 2B

Look at the email components below. First, identify if they are Openers or Closers on the left. Then, decide if the tone of each sentence is appropriate or inappropriate. The first one has been done for you.

EMAIL COMPONENT	OPENER/CLOSER	TONE
<i>Closer</i>	1. Thank you in advance for dealing with this issue.	<i>Appropriate</i>
	2. I am very sorry to bother you with a small problem related to a cute little dog.	
	3. I have an issue that I'm hoping you can solve.	
	4. I request that you make sure this dog stops being a disturbance today.	
	5. I expect to hear from you today with a satisfactory solution to this unbearable living situation.	



Activity 2C

Each sentence below has some problem language (which has been underlined) that makes it either too weak or too assertive. Fix each sentence by choosing a replacement word or phrase to make it appropriate for a formal situation.

1. If you really don't mind, I'm hoping that you can speak with the tenant about his dog.
 - a) I would be ever so grateful if you would
 - b) You have to
 - c) I would appreciate it if you would

2. I expect you to deal with this as soon as possible.
 - a) I will deal with this if you don't deal
 - b) Thank you in advance for dealing
 - c) Be sure that you deal

3. That horrible mutt shouldn't be living in this building.
 - a) My neighbour's dog
 - b) That insignificant little dog
 - c) That disruptive beast

4. I most truly hope that you can find a solution to this problem.
 - a) I look forward to finding
 - b) It's imperative that you come up with
 - c) I expect you to find

5. I would be forever grateful for any help you can offer.
- I'm sure you could definitely help me.
 - I appreciate your assistance.
 - I expect your immediate assistance.

6. You had better be aware of the pet policy in this building.
- As per our landlord/tenant agreement, there is a no-
 - I expect that you have made yourself aware of the
 - Has anyone told you about the

Task

You need a good understanding of the task before you start planning and writing. During the test, read the description and the instructions carefully to learn about the situation that you will be writing about. Keep these four “RASP” questions in mind:

ROLE:	What is my role in this task?
AUDIENCE:	Who is my audience?
SITUATION:	What is the situation?
PURPOSE:	What is the purpose of my email?

Your answers will help you decide which tone and register to use in your message, as well as what you need to say.



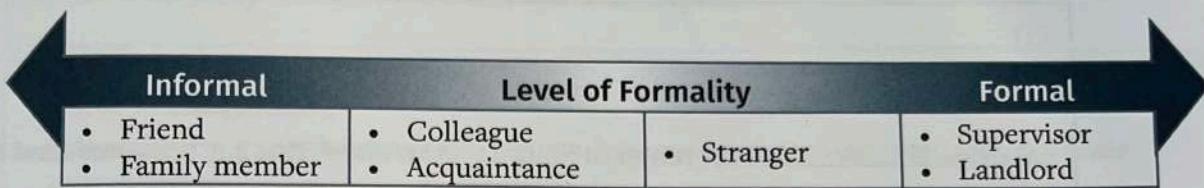
Activity 3

Look back at the Writing Task 1 example on page 53 to answer these questions.

- What is the situation about?
 - A problem with the building manager
 - A problem with the cat next door
 - A problem related to the no-dog policy
- What role am I playing in this situation?
 - An unhappy dog owner
 - An unhappy renter
 - The building manager
- Who am I writing to?
 - The building owner
 - The neighbour
 - The manager of the building
- What is the purpose of the message?
 - To complain about the person involved
 - To find a solution to the problem
 - To get the policy changed

Register

What level of formality should you aim for in your response? The level of formality—the register—is determined by your relationship with the recipient and the situation described in the task instructions.



Activity 4

Answer these questions about the register and tone of the message for Activity 1 on page 55. Explanations are provided in the Answer Key.

1. What Greeting is the best choice for this email? Note, there is only one correct answer.
 - a) Dear Mr. Jackson,
 - b) Hey Mr. Jackson,
 - c) Respected Manager of 239 Oak Street,
 - d) To Whom It May Concern,

2. Choose the best way to begin your first paragraph.
 - a) You really must help me with an unbearable problem!
 - b) Are you aware that Jack in Suite 579 has a massive hairy dog that barks endlessly every single night?
 - c) I have no idea what I'm going to do if you can't help me deal with my neighbour.
 - d) I am a resident of 239 Oak Street and I'm writing about a problem related to the no-dog policy in this building.

Activity 5A

Decide if each component is formal (F), informal (INF), appropriate for both (B), or inappropriate (IA). Write the corresponding letter(s) to the left of each expression. Explanations have been provided in the Answer Key.

GREETINGS	BODY	SIGN-OFFS
Hey!	You obviously don't care.	TTYL
Dear Mr. Snow,	I'd like to thank you.	Take care,
Dear Jack,	With respect to the aforementioned problem,	Hugs!
Dude!	And then there was the time	Regards,
Your Eminence,	I would like to draw your attention to	Sincerely,
To Whom It May Concern,	Have you noticed that	Yours most graciously,

**Activity 5B**

Add a Greeting, Body phrase, and Sign-Off from the chart on the previous page to match the tone of the email below. Then answer the questions under the message.

[1] _____

[2] _____ the renter in Suite 215 is an idiot? This guy has some kind of really noisy dog that loves to bark in the middle of the night. All night, every night. Obviously this renter doesn't know how to read, because if he did he would surely know about the no-dog policy that is mentioned in our lease and posted next to our mailboxes.

I need you to do something about this right away—before I take matters into my own hands! I haven't slept in 2 weeks, since I moved into this building. And, by the way, I have some other complaints, too.

Anyway, I demand that you evict this guy from the building by tomorrow at noon. If you don't, I will contact the police immediately. And I will go talk to this dog owner myself and tell him what I think.

[3] _____,

Henry Giraldo

Suite 214

4. What is the level of formality in this message?

- a) Very formal
- b) Formal
- c) Informal
- d) Very informal

5. How would you categorize the tone of this message?

- a) Appropriate
- b) Inappropriate

6. Which attitudes best express the tone of the message? You may select up to two choices.

- Angry
- Sincere
- Helpful
- Critical
- Pessimistic



Creating an Outline

An outline is your writing plan. It lists the main ideas and key supporting details in the order that you decide to write about them. Writers who take the time to draft an outline often produce a more organized, well-written, and clear response.



Time Management

Follow this recommendation to make sure you have enough time to organize, write, and revise your response:

OUTLINE	WRITE	EDIT
About 3 minutes	About 20 minutes	About 3 minutes

Notice that both tasks come with a built-in partial outline! Look at the Writing Task 1 sample below and see if you can spot this partial outline.

Writing Task 1: Writing an Email

Time remaining: 27 minutes 0 seconds [NEXT](#)

1 Read the following information.

Next month, there is a team of four employees who need to travel to another province for a 3-day business meeting. You have been asked to lead the team and are in charge of planning all the details. You need to write an email to the members of your team, suggesting a general plan for your trip.

1 Write an email to your team in about 150-200 words. Your email should do the following things:

- Describe the details of the trip, including dates and travel times.
- Explain how you will travel there and where you will stay.
- Ask for your team's opinion about your plan.

Type your response here.

4 words

The partial outline is the bullet points on the right side of the page above the typing box. You also need to consider some elements from the description on the left to create a complete outline.

Outline Format

You are writing an email of 150–200 words, so you likely won't write more than two or three paragraphs. Refer to page 55 for the five components of an email message for Writing Task 1.

The Four-Step Outline Method

When you are practicing and preparing for the test, it is helpful to make notes as you work through the four steps in this method. Once you learn the method, you should be able to do most of the steps in your head during the official test.

STEP 1: Use your RASP questions from the Relating Tone, Task, and Register section of this module to gather all the basics. Refer back to the examples in that section to review this skill, and jot the answers on your notepaper before you start your outline. To save time, use abbreviations if you can. Abbreviations used in the example below are "bus." for "business" and "prov." for "province."

1 Read the following information.

Next month, there is a [1] team of four employees who need to travel to another province for a 3-day business meeting. [2] You have been asked to lead the team and [1] are in charge of planning all the details. [3] You need to write an email to the members of your team, [4] suggesting a general plan for your trip.

1. **SITUATION:** Planning details for 3-day bus. trip to another prov.
2. **ROLE:** Leader of work team
3. **AUDIENCE:** Work team
4. **PURPOSE:** Suggest a plan

STEP 2: Next, use the bullet points from the Task 1 question to decide on the main points for your email, and jot these down as well. Abbreviations used in the example below are "incl." for "include" and "transp." for "transportation."

- Describe the details of the trip, including dates and travel times.
- Explain how you will travel there and where you will stay.
- Ask for your team's opinion about your plan.

MAIN POINTS:

1. Details, incl. dates and travel times
2. Transp. and hotels
3. Get team's input

STEP 3: Now look at your main points. Some may be simple and clear, but others may require supporting details. See if you can think of details to develop and/or support some of your main points.

STEP 4: Finally, look at your notes and arrange your main points into the most logical order. Select the best supporting details for each point and make sure these are also in a logical order.



Activity 6

Complete the outline below. Remember to put your main points in a logical order. Select the best two or three details for each point and put them in a logical order as well. You may use just two details to develop some points because your response should not be more than about 200 words.

Purpose of Message	Suggest a general plan for the trip and ask for each team member's opinion.
Opener	
Point 1	1. 2. 3.
Point 2	1. 2. 3.
Point 3	1. 2. 3.
Point 4	1. 2. 3.
Closer	



Activity 7

For practice in Writing Task 1 responses, use your outline to write a 150–200 word message in 20–25 minutes. If possible, type your response on a computer because that is what you will be doing during the CELPIP Test. When you are done, compare your response to the samples in the Answer Key. What are the similarities and differences between your response and the two samples?



Staying on Topic

Your email should communicate three or four ideas about the topic in a clear and focused way. Making sure that you are always on topic as you write your response will help with this. Every sentence in your response should relate directly to the purpose of your message. Remember that you should write about 150–200 words. If you go off topic, you run the risk of either not fully developing your main ideas, or exceeding the word count limit.

Activity 8

Read this response to the same Writing task and answer the questions.

Dear Team Members,

[1] As you are all aware, we will be travelling to Calgary this November for a series of meetings. [2] I have been directed to take charge of the trip, so I am writing to share our travel plans and business goals.

[3] We will be attending the annual meeting for residential realtors and meeting individually with four of the biggest Calgary real estate companies while we are there. [4] Some of you were on the Montreal trip last year, and you may remember what a great time we had at the gala dinner. [5] There was an outstanding jazz band and the wine was flowing all evening!

[6] In any case, we'll be leaving on November 24 and returning November 28 and travelling by plane. [7] I wish we could take the train because the scenery would be breathtaking and it would be a fun trip. [8] However, the train takes 24 hours while the plane is just 1 hour, so obviously we'll have to fly.

[9] In Calgary, we'll be staying downtown at the Palliser Hotel. [10] This is one of the oldest buildings in the city. It's a four-star hotel, so we'll be very comfortable and we'll be able to access local transportation easily. [11] The hotel has incredibly comfortable beds and an affordable pub, so we can continue our drinking traditions after our meetings. [12] During our leisure time it will be possible for us to relax without travelling far.

[13] I look forward to another great business trip together!

With best wishes,

Jake Harkness

249 words



Time Management

Watch the clock and your word count as you write! Make sure your response is at least 150 words before it's time to review and improve your work.

1. The response on page 64 is not completely on topic. Identify the sentences that should be removed because they do not directly support the topic.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 11 |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 7 | <input type="radio"/> 12 |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 8 | <input type="radio"/> 13 |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 9 | |
| <input type="radio"/> 5 | <input type="radio"/> 10 | |

2. Which ideas should the writer add to fully develop the purpose of the message? Check all that apply.

- Travel dates
- Travel times
- How they will travel
- Where they will stay
- Asking for their opinion

3. Using your notebook, follow these steps to rewrite the message and keep it on topic:

- Remove the sentences that are off topic.
- Add in the missing ideas.
- Include additional information and reorganize part or all of the response to make it better.

Compare your edited version to the one in the Answer Key. Did you include all the required points and is your response now completely on topic?



Demonstrating Range of Vocabulary

Using vocabulary effectively is a key skill for both Writing tasks. One way to ensure that you demonstrate the full range of your vocabulary is to avoid repetition. The process of rephrasing ideas using different words is called paraphrasing. For instance, a paraphrase of “assessing your work” would be “checking your writing.” In both cases, different vocabulary is used, but the meaning remains the same.

Try to avoid repeating words and phrases from the instructions; repeating isn’t wrong, but paraphrasing better demonstrates your range of vocabulary. In addition to paraphrasing ideas from the test questions, you can do so with your own ideas.

Another way of showing your range of vocabulary is by using more precise language. Try to avoid vague, general descriptions in sentences—the more detail you can add, the better.

**Tip**

- Express your ideas accurately and precisely.
- Use descriptive adjectives, strong verbs, and precise nouns.
- Make sure the reader can easily understand your meaning.

Look at the Writing task, sample response, and explanation below to learn more about why restating ideas is a key test skill.

Writing Task 1: Writing an Email

Time remaining: 27 minutes 0 seconds

NEXT

1 Read the following information.

You recently forgot your watch at the gym. The watch is important to you because it was a gift from your grandparents.

1 Write an email to the manager of your gym in about 150-200 words. Your email should do the following things:

- Explain where you left the watch.
- Describe why it is important that you get your watch back.
- Explain how you may be contacted if the watch is found.

Type your response here.

4 words

Hello Mr. Crofton,

My name is David Hill and I go to your gym on 10155 Sunhaven Street.

[1] I am writing to you because I recently forgot my watch at the gym and I think I left my watch in the fitness room. [2] The watch is a Rolex watch and is red. If the watch is not in the fitness room maybe I left it in the weight room.

First, the watch is very important for me because it was a gift from my grandparents. Also it is important because it was very expensive. So it is important that I get my watch back. [3] You can contact me if the watch is found. [4] Contact me at my cellphone number: 604-123-4567.

Thank you,

David Hill

125 words

Consider these problems related to this test taker's limited vocabulary:

- His response is only 125 words.
- He seems to rely on the wording in the question, except for a basic description of the watch and where it might be.
- His limited vocabulary also limits the ideas he can express. While he addresses all three bullet points, his ideas aren't very precise or detailed.
- He repeats key phrases from the test question (see the blue phrases).

Activity 9A

1. At 125 words, the response on page 66 is quite short. It could be improved by providing additional details that would develop the main ideas and demonstrate a wider vocabulary range. What other details could the writer include, without going off topic?
 - a) A story about his grandparents
 - b) Why his grandparents gave him the watch
 - c) Other important things he has lost
 - d) How angry he will be if he doesn't get his watch back

Activity 9B

Look at the same response. For each numbered sentence, choose the best replacement.

1. a) I'm writing to you because last week I left my watch at the gym.
b) I'm writing to you because that watch was a gift from my grandparents.
c) I'm pretty sure that I left my watch at the gym at some point.
d) I think I lost my watch somewhere.
2. a) It is a Rolex watch.
b) The watch is red.
c) It is a red Rolex watch.
d) The watch is both red, and it is a Rolex.
3. and 4. (These sentences can be combined to improve the writing style.)
a) Get in touch with me as soon as possible at 604-123-4567.
b) If you find the watch, please phone or text me right away at 604-123-4567.
c) Please contact me when you find the watch at 604-123-4567.
d) When you have the watch, call me please at 604-123-4567.


Activity 10A

For each general noun in the chart below, find up to three specific nouns/noun phrases that match. Add one more noun phrase to each list if you can. The first one has been done for you, and it includes an example of a noun phrase you could think of on your own.

SPECIFIC NOUNS / NOUN PHRASES

watch band	fitness centre	change room	fitness lesson
grandfather	session	studio	practice space
weight training course	grandparent	leisure centre	timepiece
grandmother	wristwatch	health club	watch strap

GENERAL NOUNS
SPECIFIC NOUNS/NOUN PHRASES

class	1. <i>session</i> 2. <i>fitness lesson</i> 3. <i>weight training course</i> 4. <i>meditation class</i>
watch	1. 2. 3. 4.
area	1. 2. 3. 4.
band	1. 2. 3. 4.
gym	1. 2. 3. 4.
person	1. 2. 3. 4.



Activity 10B

For each common adjective in the chart below, find up to three descriptive adjectives/adjective phrases that match. Add one more adjective phrase to each list if you can. The first one has been done for you.

DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES / ADJECTIVE PHRASES					
very costly	scarlet	highly significant	missing	of great consequence	high-priced
thoroughly miserable	after everything else	nowhere to be found	truly unhappy	completely vanished	essential
deep crimson	pricey	final	ruby	in the end	gloomy

COMMON ADJECTIVES	DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES/ADJECTIVE PHRASES
red	1. <i>deep crimson</i> 2. <i>scarlet</i> 3. <i>ruby</i> 4.
lost	1. 2. 3. 4.
expensive	1. 2. 3. 4.
important	1. 2. 3. 4.
last	1. 2. 3. 4.
sad	1. 2. 3. 4.

**Activity 10C**

For each weak verb in the chart below, find up to three strong verbs/verb phrases that match. Add one more verb phrase to each list if you can. The first one has been done for you.

**STRONG VERBS / VERB PHRASES**

believe	misplace	retrieve	get in touch with
come across	phone me	have in my possession	be unable to find
give me a call	get a hold of	assume	own
obtain	get back	completely lose track of	suppose

WEAK VERBS**STRONG VERBS/VERB PHRASES**

lose	1. <i>misplace</i> 2. <i>completely lose track of</i> 3. <i>be unable to find</i> 4.
find	1. 2. 3. 4.
call	1. 2. 3. 4.
think	1. 2. 3. 4.
get	1. 2. 3. 4.
have	1. 2. 3. 4.



Activity 11

Here is another response to the test question on page 66. For each pair of underlined phrases, circle the phrase which provides more description, more specifics, or more information. As you make your choices, try not to select answers that include key words that have already been used in the response.

Dear Lifesource Gym Management,

I [1] was at/took a spin class at your gym last Friday evening, and when I got home, [2] I knew/I realized right away that [3] I had somehow forgotten/I left my watch there. I must have left it in the change room, as I usually [4] take it off/stow it safely away before going into the [5] hot yoga studio/room. My locker number is 57, and I believe the watch [6] should be there/is hidden away on the top shelf.

This watch [7] has great sentimental value/is important to me as it was a gift from my grandparents. My grandmother passed away last December and this is the [8] last thing/final gift she ever gave to me. [9] I'll be visiting/I'll see my grandfather [10] next week/soon, and he will without a doubt ask about the watch. [11] Therefore/As I hope you can see, it is very important that I get it back.

If you find the watch, please [12] contact me as soon as you possibly can/call me on my cell at 416-123-5678. If I miss your call, leave me a message and I'll definitely phone you right away.

Thank you!



Using Time Sequencers and Conjunctions

Time sequencers are useful when you write about a series of events, which you sometimes need to do for Task 1 of the Writing Test. Conjunctions are words or phrases used to join ideas together. Conjunctions are often used to join ideas within a sentence or to show how two sentences are related. These are both important features of a high-level email response. Appropriate use of time sequencers and conjunctions helps to produce a logical and coherent response, so readers can more easily understand the order of events as well as the relationship between ideas in your email or survey response.



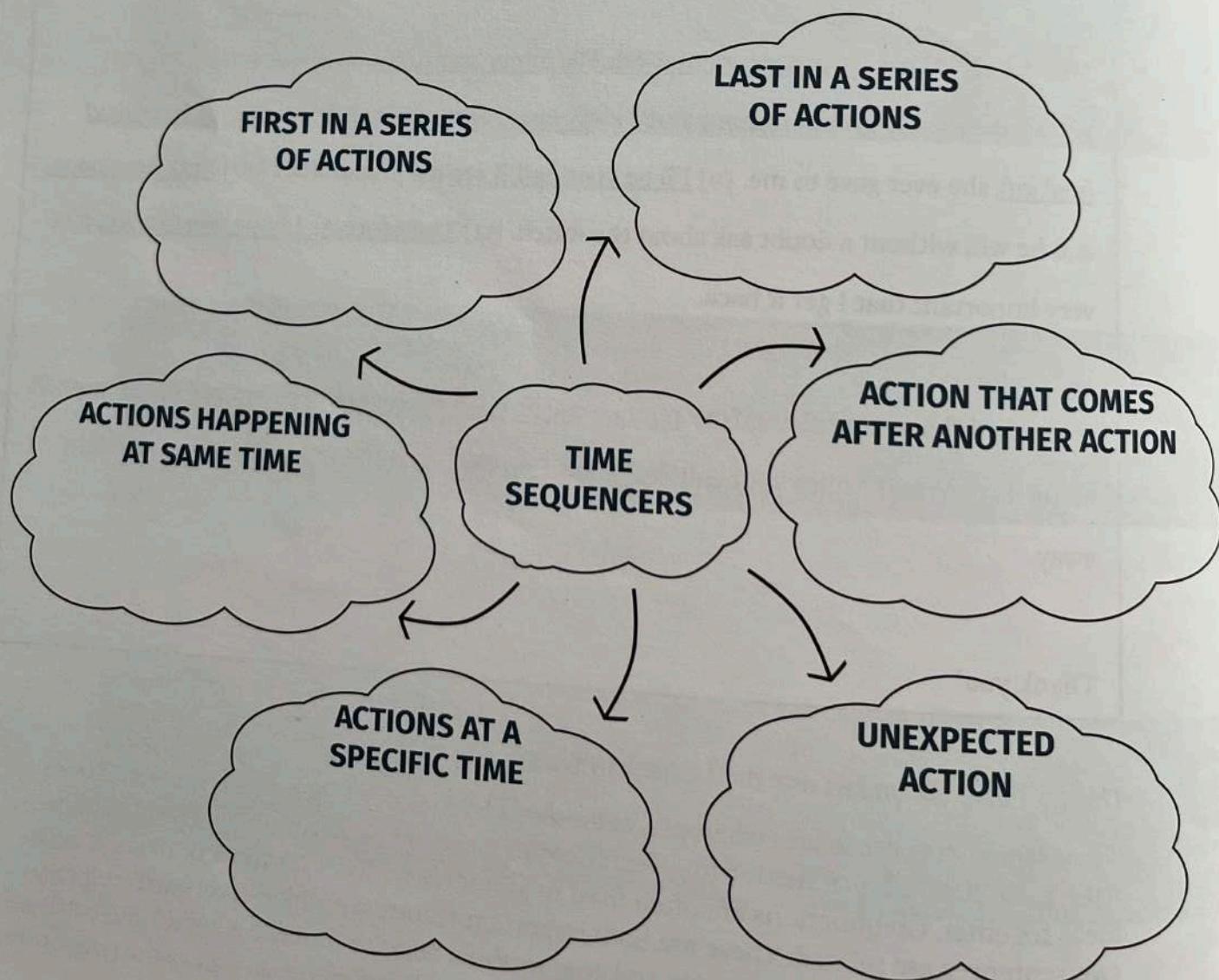
Tip Balance your sentences! Use conjunctions to create long sentences with several related ideas—but make sure you include short sentences in your response as well. Short sentences are useful when you want to stress an important point.



Activity 12

Put each time sequencer into the correct group. There are four in each group.

after that	unexpectedly	finally	meanwhile	all of a sudden	after
when	3 hours later	to begin with	during	next	in 2 weeks
while	first	then	suddenly	firstly	in the end
without warning	lastly	first of all	at 2:00	next year	ultimately





Activity 13

Look at the test question and response below. Choose the correct time sequencers from the list of possible answers.

Writing Task 1: Writing an Email

Time remaining: 27 minutes 0 seconds

NEXT

● Read the following information.

Next month, there is a team of four employees who need to travel to another province for a 3-day business meeting. You have been asked to lead the team and are in charge of planning all the details. You need to write an email to the members of your team, suggesting a general plan for your trip.

- 1 Write an email to your team in about 150-200 words. Your email should do the following things:

- Describe the details of the trip, including dates and travel times.
- Explain how you will travel there and where you will stay.
- Ask for your team's opinion about your plan.

Type your response here.

4 words

at 2:00 p.m.	suddenly	next	the next morning
before	to begin with	after	meanwhile

Good evening team,

This email is to explain the details of our business trip.

[1] _____, we will be departing from Vancouver airport on Monday, September 3rd, at 7:00 a.m. and arriving in Toronto [2] _____. Be sure to get to the airport at least 2 hours prior to the departure time.

[3] _____ we have picked up our luggage, our driver will be waiting for us at the pickup area on the arrivals level. [4] _____, he will take us to the Western Hotel so we can drop off our suitcases and prepare for our 2-hour meeting starting at 4:00 p.m.

[5] _____, our clients will be assembling for that meeting in the Pacific Room at our hotel.

Upon completion of the meeting, we will head to the Cabana restaurant with our clients. The restaurant is located on the east side of the hotel lobby. [6] _____, after a well-earned sleep, we will assemble for breakfast at 7:30 [7] _____ leaving for the airport at 8:45 to catch our 11:00 a.m. flight.

If you [8] _____ find yourself having to deal with any unforeseen events during this busy day, be sure to text me immediately.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Thank you,

Julia Rowgen



Activity 14A

Match each conjunction on the left with its function on the right by joining them with a line.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. because | a) example |
| 2. in order to | b) contrast |
| 3. although | c) condition |
| 4. as well as | d) comparison |
| 5. for instance | e) reason |
| 6. similarly | f) addition |
| 7. if | g) purpose |



Activity 14B

Decide if each sentence below is grammatically correct by circling ✓ (correct) or ✗ (incorrect). Remember that a conjunction needs to either join two ideas in one sentence or show how one sentence relates to the one that came before it.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Because we will have clients from eight companies at the meeting. | ✓ ✗ |
| 2. We have booked the meeting at the hotel so that we don't have to travel to get there. | ✓ ✗ |
| 3. In order to make this a success, we really need to deliver a quality presentation. | ✓ ✗ |
| 4. Although it seems very challenging. | ✓ ✗ |
| 5. As well as starting the dinner on time. | ✓ ✗ |
| 6. We need to make a positive impact on our clients. For instance, each team member could discuss their area of expertise. | ✓ ✗ |
| 7. Make sure you get to the airport 2 hours before our flight takes off; similarly, you should be at the airport 2 hours before the return flight. | ✓ ✗ |
| 8. If you encounter any problems during the trip, text me immediately. | ✓ ✗ |



Activity 15

Look at the Writing response below. For each pair of underlined conjunctions, choose the one that joins the ideas effectively. Consider which conjunction expresses the correct relationship between the two ideas, as well as which one fits grammatically into the sentence. The first one has been done for you.

Hello everyone,

As you all know, we have a business meeting in Vancouver next week. I am writing to present the plan for this trip.

I propose that we rent a car [1] if because this is a comfortable and economical way to travel, and it gives us more freedom than flying from Calgary to Vancouver. [2] For instance, /Although, we can stop at a few places along the way for sightseeing and meals. I was thinking of booking the Holiday Inn in Kelowna on Friday [3] so that /as well as we can take advantage of the good deals available online. [4] Because /Although the Holiday Inn offers good rates in Vancouver, as well, I feel we should stay at the Marriott, instead, because it has a better downtown location for our purposes.

Our conference starts Friday and ends Saturday. [5] So that /In order to be in top shape for our presentations, be sure to get a good sleep on Thursday night. [6] As well as /For instance making presentations, some of you will be doing one-on-one meetings with key clients, so be sure you have your updated meeting schedule before we leave. [7] Because, / Similarly, each of you is responsible for knowing when and where your presentations are taking place.

[8] So that /If you have any questions or concerns, contact me by noon tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Keizo



Correcting Your Errors

There are always ways to make your CELPIP Writing response better. Be sure to leave 3–4 minutes at the end of each Writing task to review and improve your work.



Tip The Writing Test typing screen includes seven basic editing tools: cut, paste, copy, delete, undo, redo, and spell check. Make sure you are comfortable with these editing tools before you write the test.

When you are checking your work, try to think like a CELPIP Rater. Remember the four scoring categories (see the Writing Overview/back cover) and look for problems in those areas. Here is a checklist to help you review your work. If you are using this chart to check your practice responses, select (✓) “Yes” if you feel you have done something well, “Sometimes” if you have partially achieved a requirement, and “No” if you have missed a requirement.

CELPPIP WRITING CHECKLIST

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1. Is my meaning clear?			
2. Are the ideas organized logically?			
3. Have I rephrased key ideas?			
4. Have I chosen descriptive and precise words and phrases?			
5. Is my format correct?			
6. Do my paragraphs make sense?			
7. Have I used different sentence types and lengths?			
8. Are the tone and register appropriate?			
9. Have I used connecting words and phrases to connect ideas?			
10. Is each sentence complete?			
11. Have I minimized spelling, grammar, punctuation, and wording mistakes?			
12. Have I written 150–200 words?			

Be careful not to rely completely on spell check because it may not always notice a mistake (e.g., errors with words that sound the same, such as “there” and “their,” usually aren’t highlighted) and it may not always give you the correct word when it catches a mistake.

Look at this example:

Try not to mape any mistakes when typing.

During the CELPIP Test, spell check would offer these choices:

- nape
- map
- ape

The correct word is “make,” so in this case any test taker who selects one of the words offered by spell check will have a very obvious spelling mistake.



Activity 16

Look at the response to the test question shown below, and answer the questions that follow.

Writing Task 1: Writing an Email

Time remaining: 27 minutes 0 seconds

NEXT

① Read the following information.

You live in an apartment building that has a no-dogs policy. Renters are only allowed to have cats. You moved into the building a few months ago, and you keep hearing a dog barking in the next-door apartment, especially at night.

- ① Write an email to your building manager in about 150-200 words. Your email should do the following things:

- Explain what you are experiencing.
- Complain about the dogs in the building.
- Suggest how the problem should be solved.

Type your response here.

4 words

good day,

I am john, one of your tenants, and I have a problem with your building. Every evening when i am relaxing, watching television, or eating my dinner, I heard a dog barking in the next apartment. This is distracting, especially at night when i am sleeping. i am writing you an email. Because I do not want my neighbours to get mad at me when I talk to them about their dog. Could you speak to the tenants in the next apartment about this, and remind them that dogs are not allowed in the building?

I wonder how a dog owner ended up living here, since this building has no-dog policy? how come one of my neighbours has one. Please understand i'm not a dog hater i just want some real privacy and silence at night.

Can you visit my tomorrow neighbour and explain that dogs aren't allowed in the building? Maybe you can help them decide what to do about their dog.
hoping for your kind actions,

John Parkdale

172 words



1. What are the two biggest problems in this response?
 - a) Formatting and paragraphs
 - b) Word count
 - c) Capitalization and punctuation
 - d) Sentence types

2. This test taker uses an appropriate tone, except in two places. Select the two sentences which the reader may find too direct.
 - a) ... I have a problem with your building.
 - b) ... I do not want my neighbours to get mad at me when I talk to them about their dog.
 - c) How come one of my neighbours has one.
 - d) I just want some real privacy and silence at night.

3. There are 14 grammar and/or punctuation mistakes in the Activity 16 response. Underline and correct each mistake.



Tip Always check your work for content/coherence, vocabulary, readability, and task fulfillment.



Activity 17

The response below has formatting and paragraph problems. Make any necessary formatting corrections and show where you would create paragraph breaks. For an extra challenge, fix any specific problems related to grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, and tone.

Having moved into your building recently I was under the impression that there was a no-dogs rule.

However, each evening I can hear a dog barking in the next apartment and I am write to ask for your help with this. This is ridiculously unacceptable. Some nights I am awakened at 2:00 a.m. by the barking, and I find it challenging to focus at work the next day.

I am a doctor, it is important that I am always at my best for my patients. This building is near to my work, and also chose it specifically for the no-dogs rule, as I had problems in my previous apartment with dog noise. My badly sleeping was beginning to affect my work, and now the situation isn't any better since I'm having the same problems.

I know dogs are part of people's family, but would like you to sort out this problem. I'm not looking for a rent decrease. As this would not resolve the situation, but maybe I could move to another apartment away from the noise, or the person next door could move to another apartment.

187 words

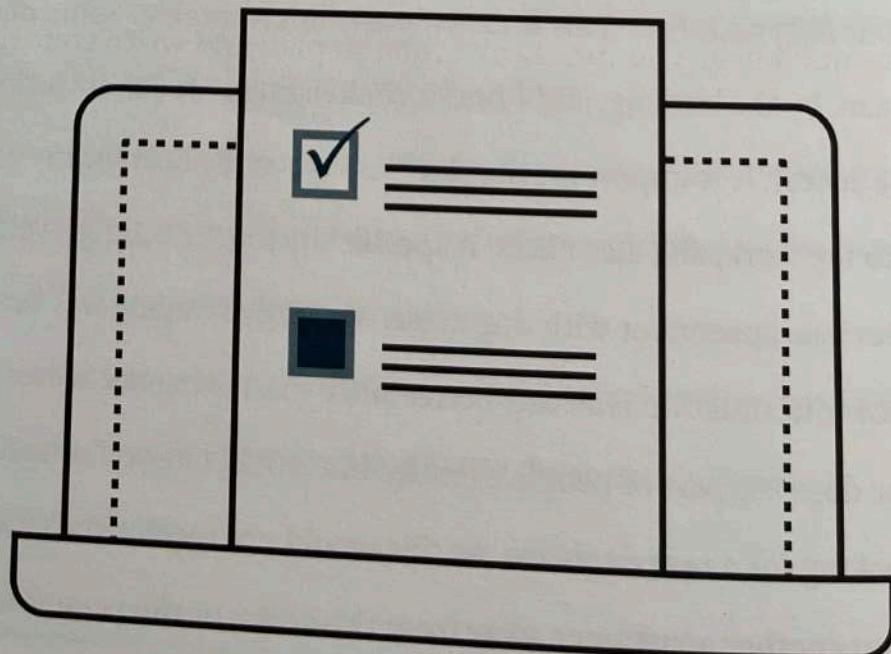
UNIT 8

Responding to Survey Questions

LEARNING FOCUS

- Steps for completing Task 2
- Choosing Option A or B
- Stating your opinion
- Supporting your opinion
- Selecting ideas
- Organizing ideas
- Using sentence variety
- Improving your work

In Writing Task 2: Responding to Survey Questions you are given background information about a survey question, two choices, and some specific instructions. Look at the infographic on the next page to learn more about these parts of the task. Before you start planning and writing, use the information in the description and instructions to decide on the approach, content, and tone of your message. Your purpose for Task 2 will always be the same: to express your position on the topic clearly and justify your choice with valid reasons.



Writing Task 2: Responding to Survey Questions

3

Time remaining: 26 minutes 0 seconds

NEXT

- 1 Read the following information.

Discount Cards Survey

- 2 You work in a large general retail store. Your employer has decided to give discount cards to all its full-time employees. This will allow the staff to save money on goods in the store. The employer is asking your opinion on two discount card options.

4

- 1 Choose the option that you prefer. Why do you prefer your choice? Explain the reasons for your choice. Write about 150-200 words.

- Option A: I prefer a 20% discount on all products, not including groceries.
- Option B: I prefer a 10% discount on all products, including groceries.

5

I prefer Option A because

5 words

- ① Check survey title for information about topic.
- ② Make sure you understand the situation.
- ③ Watch your time! Make your choice within first minute or two.
- ④ Choose one as quickly as you can. Leave time to plan and write your response.
- ⑤ Start with clear statement of your choice.



Steps for Completing Task 2

Read the instructions on both sides of the screen carefully. The two options and specific instructions on the right side of the screen are only half the story; you must understand the situation on the left side in order to make an informed choice and provide convincing reasons.



Activity 1

The list below gives all the steps for completing Task 2—but it is out of order. Number the steps to show how you should work through Writing Task 2. The last step has been completed for you.

STEPS TO COMPLETE TASK 2

#	STEPS TO COMPLETE TASK 2
	Write and organize your response.
	Scan the right side for specific information about the task and the two options.
	Quickly decide which option you will write about.
	Scan the left side to find the role, audience, and situation for the task.
	Quickly create an outline.
	Skim the instructions to get a general idea of what you need to do.
7	Edit and improve your response.



Activity 2

Read the instructions for the Discount Cards Survey on page 81 and select the correct answer choices in the chart below.

RASP: KEY INFORMATION IN THE TASK INSTRUCTIONS	ANSWER CHOICES
ROLE: I am ...	a) a worker in a big store. b) the employer in a big store.
AUDIENCE: My reader(s) is/ are ...	a) the employees. b) my boss.
SITUATION: I must choose between ...	a) 20% discount for everything except food or 10% discount on everything including food. b) 20% discount on groceries or 10% discount on groceries.
PURPOSE: My response should ...	a) clearly explain the reasons for my choice. b) clearly explain why I want to save money.



Tip AUDIENCE: In Task 2, you may sometimes be required to write to a specific person (e.g., “your manager”), in which case you should include a short greeting. In other cases, you will be writing to a larger organization (e.g., “the city council”), in which case there is no need for a greeting.



Activity 3

Read this response to the Discount Cards Survey question and answer the question below.

Thank you, manager, for this 20% discount on all products! I just bought a new house and I need to purchase a lot of furniture for my house.

Right now I only have a dining table with four chairs and a bed frame. I was going to slowly purchase all the things I need over the coming year, but with this discount I can get things faster. I need a firm mattress, a 50" TV and a 3-seater sofa. I hope I can get a loveseat to match my sofa too.

All I can think about is getting my new house set up. It will be exciting for me once I buy all the things I need, and then I'll have a house-warming party. This will make me very happy!

130 words

Select each statement below in which the test taker followed the task instructions:

- She wrote as an employee at a big store.
- She explained her choice.
- She wrote to her employer.
- She gave several reasons for her choice.
- She made a choice between the two options.
- She wrote 150–200 words.



Choosing Option A or B

You may be tempted to write about the option you personally prefer, but this isn't always the best strategy. Use these guidelines to help you choose between the two options in Task 2:

- Try to quickly list at least three clear reasons to support each option (supporting reasons).
- Think of at least one good reason not to choose each option (reason against).
- Make sure your supporting reasons and your reasons against are factual, not emotional.

Which option did you find it easiest to write reasons for? That is the option you should write about. Before you start your response, try to list some useful vocabulary to support that viewpoint.

**Tip**

- Each option is equally acceptable.
- Your personal viewpoint shouldn't be the main reason for your choice.
- Choose the option that you can justify with logical and well-supported reasons.

**Activity 4**

1. Refer to the Discount Cards Survey on page 81 and complete the following activity. Complete the chart below by listing supporting reasons, reasons against, and vocabulary.

		OPTION A <i>I prefer a 20% discount on all products, <u>not</u> including groceries.</i>	OPTION B <i>I prefer a 10% discount on all products, <u>including</u> groceries.</i>
Supporting Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent savings • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits most employees since many of us buy our groceries here • • 	
Reasons Against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger discount on other items would be appreciated 	
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater savings • Household items • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily needs • One-stop shopping • Struggling to make ends meet • 	

2. How many supporting reasons did you list for each option?

Option A

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Option B

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

When writing about your choice, try to remain objective—that is, try to base your writing on facts rather than feelings. If you have strong personal feelings about the option you choose, avoid overly emotional language. Your goal is to provide a convincing argument based on strong supporting details. Work on including precise and descriptive words and phrases.



Activity 5

Compare these two paragraphs from responses to the Discount Cards Survey and then answer the questions below.

A. We all have to buy food every week, and therefore I choose Option B. It's totally obvious that every single employee of this company will be forever grateful to you for this opportunity to buy all our groceries cheaper. Just think of how happy my children will be when I bring them their favourite treats every week! It would be idiotic for us to take a larger discount on non-food items only—honestly, who can imagine not choosing a way to provide more food every week.

B. Food is a necessity of life, and therefore I choose Option B. With this discount on all products, especially food, we can benefit from convenient one-stop shopping. All employees can efficiently and affordably provide for the daily needs of ourselves and our families. We can shop right after work and have more time to rest and relax, resulting in more productive employees. Some of us may even experience less stress at home because we will be able to provide the things our family members need.

1. Paragraph A contains overly emotional language, resulting in an inappropriate tone.

Select the phrases that make this explanation unsuitable:

- We all have to buy food every week.
- It's totally obvious that every single employee of this company will be forever grateful ...
- It would be idiotic ...
- ... take a larger discount on non-food items only
- Honestly, who can imagine ...

2. Paragraph B makes five main points and uses an appropriate tone. The five main points are:

- Everyone needs food.
- Employees can buy everything they need in one place.
- Employees can shop after they finish their shift.
- Employees will have more leisure time.
- Employees will be more productive at work.

What makes these points persuasive?

- a) Each one presents factual information.
- b) They are each about food.
- c) They show how much the writer cares about his family.

**Activity 6**

Look at the new Task 2 question and fill in the chart below.

Writing Task 2: Responding to Survey Questions

Time remaining: 26 minutes 0 seconds

NEXT

- 1** Read the following information.

Parking or Bike Lane Survey

You live in an old neighbourhood in the city where cars can park on both sides of the street. Recently, cyclists have asked the local government to replace the parking spaces on one side of the street with a bike lane. This means that cars can park on only one side and only bikes can use the other side. The government has asked you to respond to an opinion survey.

- 1** Choose the option that you prefer. Why do you prefer your choice? Explain the reasons for your choice. Write about 150-200 words.

- Option A: I think the city should replace parking spaces on one side of the street with a bike lane.
- Option B: I think the city should keep parking spaces on both sides of the street.

Type your response here.

4 words

OPTION A

Replace parking spaces on one side of the street with a bike lane

OPTION B

Keep parking spaces on both sides of the street

Supporting Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •
Reasons Against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •

**Test Practice**

Write a response to the Parking or Bike Lane Survey question. Give yourself about half an hour to complete this activity. Justify your choice with logical and well-supported reasons. You can compare your response to the Level 12 responses in the Answer Key.



Stating Your Opinion

Your Task 2 response should have a clear statement of your opinion within the first few sentences. Look again at the Parking or Bike Lane Survey task on the previous page, and read the following two samples.

From my perspective, it makes good sense to exchange parking spaces for a bike lane on all the streets in our neighbourhood. This will impact positively on the residents of our neighbourhood for three reasons. First of all ...

I think the city should replace parking spaces on one side of the street with a bike lane. This makes good sense and will benefit many residents for the following three reasons. To start with ...

Both examples clearly state the writer's opinion at the beginning and inform the reader that there will be three supporting reasons, but there is one difference. The first writer paraphrased her option choice by using her own words. The second writer, on the other hand, failed to rephrase Option A when stating his opinion. By repeating the wording from the question, this test taker has missed an opportunity to demonstrate his range of vocabulary.

Ideally, your statement of opinion should include these two features:

- A phrase indicating that you are about to express your opinion
- A restatement of the option you have chosen



Activity 7

1. Look at the two examples above and copy the phrases each writer has used to show they are going to state their opinion:

a) _____

b) _____

2. Look at the two examples above and copy the way each writer restated the option from the survey:

a) _____

b) _____



Tip It is acceptable to make up statistics or evidence to support your opinion in the CELPIP Test. If you do this, try to make it sound believable. You can also support your opinion by claiming to be an expert on the topic through experience or education.



Supporting Your Opinion

You need to support your opinion with logical reasons, relevant information, and perhaps an example or story that strengthens your viewpoint.

Check that each idea you have chosen directly supports your choice by asking yourself these questions:

- How does this idea provide evidence or support for my opinion?
- What details can I add to develop this idea?
- How relevant are these details to my opinion on this topic?

Look at the Coffee Payment Survey question below and read the first paragraph from a sample response that follows.

Writing Task 2: Responding to Survey Questions

Time remaining: 26 minutes 0 seconds

NEXT

- 1** Read the following information.

Coffee Payment Survey

The office manager is surveying your opinion about the company providing hot drinks, such as tea and coffee, in the kitchen for all staff. The company could collect \$15 each month from each person, or each person could contribute \$1 for each cup. The office manager asked you to complete an opinion survey.

- 1** Choose the option that you prefer. Why do you prefer your choice? Explain the reasons for your choice. Write about 150-200 words.

- Option A: I would like to pay \$15 each month.
- Option B: I would like to pay \$1 each time I have tea or coffee.

Type your response here.

4 words

I would like to pay \$1 each time I have tea or coffee. I love tea and I am very happy that the company will do this for us. This means that I can enjoy tea whenever I want and this will make me feel so good. Drinking tea at the office will make me feel appreciated and will help me relax. And this will make me a more productive worker.

There is one main problem with this paragraph in terms of how the writer supports her opinion:

- The writer has not provided any direct support for her choice.

The ideas in this paragraph all support how much the writer likes tea and how she feels that drinking tea will make her a better employee. While this is a good point, it is not relevant to why she wants to pay \$1 per cup instead of \$15 per month. This response, therefore, will lose points for Content/Cohherence and Task Fulfillment (see the four categories for scoring on page 50).

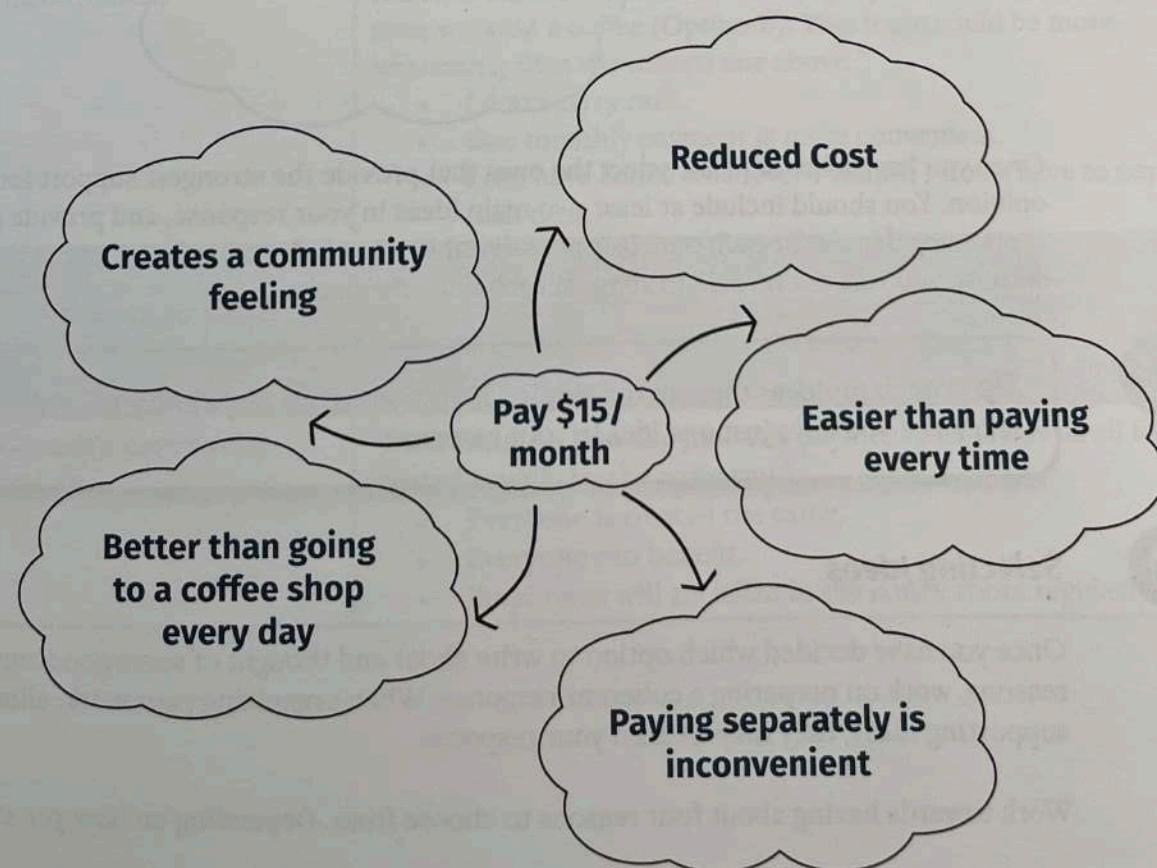
The writer could improve her opening paragraph by adding more relevant ideas to support her opinion, such as these:

- I have a hot drink at the office just once or twice a week.
- I know that most of the employees rarely buy a coffee or tea.

Each idea provides strong support for why paying \$1 per cup is a better choice by showing that most employees, including the writer, are probably spending under \$10 per month.

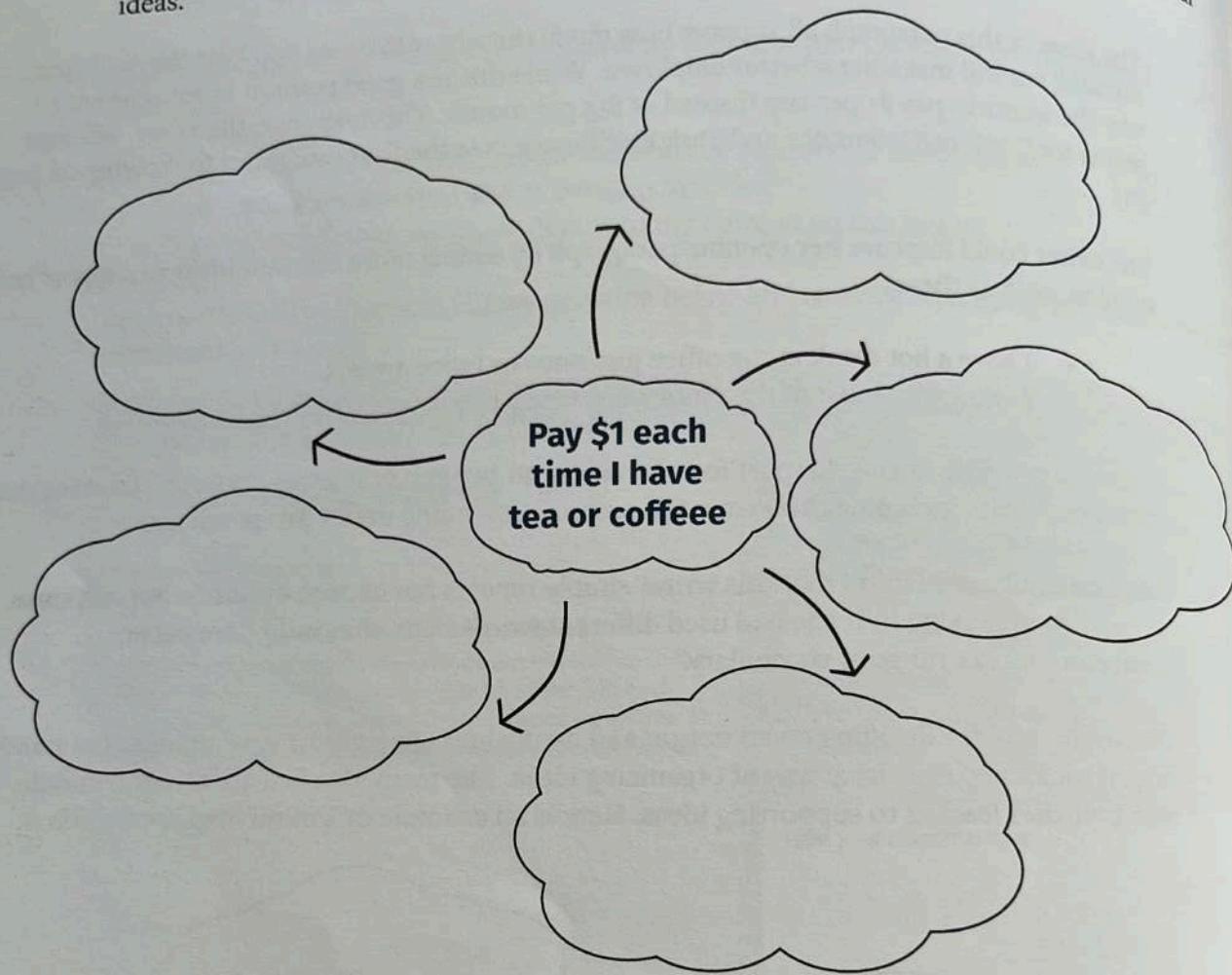
Additionally, keep in mind that this writer simply repeats her chosen option in her response, without paraphrasing it. If she had used different words here, she could have better demonstrated her range of vocabulary.

One useful tool for deciding on an option and listing ideas to support your opinion is a mind map. A mind map is a visual way of organizing ideas. The main idea is usually in the middle, with branches leading to supporting ideas. Here is an example of a mind map for Option A.



**Activity 8**

Use the mind map below to list ideas to support Option B. Try to come up with at least four ideas.



Once you have a list of ideas, select the ones that provide the strongest support for your opinion. You should include at least two main ideas in your response, and provide good supporting details for each one. It is not advisable to include more than three main ideas because you will not be able to support each one effectively.



Tip Watch for ideas that are too similar. If your ideas are very closely related, it might seem as if you have just one idea in your response.

**Selecting Ideas**

Once you have decided which option to write about and thought of some good supporting reasons, work on preparing a coherent response. When organizing your work, eliminate poor supporting ideas; they may weaken your response.

Work towards having about four reasons to choose from. Depending on how you choose

Option A or B, these may be in a mind map or in point form on your notepaper. Use these guidelines to help you choose your ideas:

- Make sure each idea directly supports your opinion.
- Choose ideas that aren't too similar.
- Select two or three ideas with good supporting details.
- Think of at least two details to support each idea if you can.

Look again at the ideas in the mind map for Option A on page 89. Here is the thinking behind how one test taker might choose his three strongest points.

REASON FOR OPTION A	TEST TAKER'S THINKING
Reduced cost	<p>"I can prove that I will save money by showing how I would have to spend at least \$1 per day on the other plan. Then I can talk about how others who drink this much will also like this plan."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs about \$20 per month if we buy one cup per day • Cold Edmonton winters: most employees have more hot drinks and spend more
Easier than paying every time	<p>"Many people don't carry cash nowadays. I can say that some employees may not be able to buy a tea or coffee when they want to if they have no money. Hmm, this seems closely related to the next topic and even the first topic, so I probably won't use it."</p>
Paying separately is inconvenient	<p>"I'll write about the convenience of paying just once a month and how frustrating it could be if employees need cash every time we want a coffee (Option B). This topic could be more interesting than the related one above."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't carry cash. • One monthly payment is more convenient. • I can have coffee whenever I want if I don't have to pay each time.
Better than going to a coffee shop every day	<p>"This idea seems related to the first one about cost. I would have to compare the cost of going to a coffee shop to this payment plan and I think it might be repetitive, so no point in using it."</p>
Creates a community feeling	<p>"I can focus on how the monthly payment plan helps us all feel treated equally by the company."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is treated the same. • Everyone can benefit. • Employees will socialize in the coffee room regularly.

Now that the test taker is thinking more carefully about his ideas, he is able to provide better details to support the best ones. In the list below, notice that the ideas that seem similar to other stronger ones have now been left out.

OPINION: Pay \$15 each month.

IDEA 1: REDUCED COST

- Costs about \$20 per month if we buy one cup per day

• Cold Edmonton winters: most employees have more hot drinks and spend more

IDEA 2: PAYING SEPARATELY IS INCONVENIENT

- Encourages people to use the plan regularly

• Monthly plan removes possibility of feeling penalized for not having cash

- Supports regular socialization

IDEA 3: CREATES A COMMUNITY FEELING

- Fosters a sense of community

- Encourages participation

- Increases socialization at work, which could improve productivity



Activity 9

Look at the mind map you made for Activity 8 on page 90. Select the three best ideas and list supporting details for each of them.

OPINION: Pay \$1 each time I have tea or coffee.

IDEA 1:

- _____
- _____

IDEA 2:

- _____
- _____

IDEA 3:

- _____
- _____



Tip Choose ideas or reasons that directly support your opinion and for which you can think of relevant supporting details.



Organizing Ideas

You now need to put your two or three best ideas into a logical order. When you take the time to do this, the reader will be able to follow your ideas easily and understand how they are related. Once again, here is the test taker's original order of ideas, presented in the order he thought of them.

OPINION: Pay \$15 each month.

IDEA 1: REDUCED COST

- Costs about \$20 per month if we buy one cup per day
- Cold Edmonton winters: most employees have more hot drinks and spend more

IDEA 2: PAYING SEPARATELY IS INCONVENIENT

- Encourages people to use the plan regularly
- Monthly plan removes possibility of feeling penalized for not having cash
- Supports regular socialization

IDEA 3: CREATES A COMMUNITY FEELING

- Fosters a sense of community
- Encourages participation
- Increases socialization at work, which could improve productivity

To organize his ideas more logically, our test taker decides to start with his last idea because he feels it will grab the reader's attention. He has also noticed that one point in his last idea (**increases socialization at work**) links to a detail (**supports regular socialization**) in his **paying separately** idea. Our test taker quickly reviews his details and changes the order in the **paying separately** idea to create more logical support. He feels it makes sense to end with the **reduced cost** idea because this presents a simple mathematical reason for why the monthly plan makes better sense and is a tidy way to complete his argument. His notes now look like this:

OPINION: Pay \$15 each month.

IDEA 1: CREATES A COMMUNITY FEELING

- Fosters a sense of community
- Encourages participation
- Increases socialization at work, which could improve productivity

IDEA 2: PAYING SEPARATELY IS INCONVENIENT

- Supports regular socialization
- Monthly plan removes possibility of feeling penalized for not having cash
- Encourages people to use the plan regularly

IDEA 3: REDUCED COST

- Costs about \$20 per month if we buy one cup per day
- Cold Edmonton winters: most employees have more than one hot drink per day and spend more

Our test taker is satisfied that his ideas and details are in a logical order. Now that he is ready to draft his response, he can focus on his writing skills because he has already decided what he will write about and how to organize his ideas.



Tip You may be able to improve your score by including one or two sentences about why the other option isn't a good choice.



Test Practice

Go back to your notes from Activities 8 and 9 for Option B. On a piece of notepaper, put your ideas and details into a logical order. Using your notes, write your own response. Compare your response to the Level 12 responses in the Answer Key for both Option A and Option B.



Using Sentence Variety

A good writing response features sentences that vary in length and type. Using a combination of simple, compound, and complex sentences helps writers indicate which ideas are more important and how ideas are related to each other. Writers who use different types of sentences have a better chance of expressing their ideas smoothly and achieving a higher level of coherence.

This chart provides a quick review of the key grammar terms we need to use when we talk about sentence variety.

GRAMMAR REFRESHER!

Independent clauses are **underlined**.

Dependent clauses are **bolded**.

Conjunctions, transitions, and linking phrases are *italicized*.

Term	Definition	Example
Independent Clause	A group of words with a subject and a verb that expresses a complete thought and can be a sentence.	I <u>like coffee</u> .
Dependent Clause	A group of words with a subject and a verb that does not express a complete thought and is not a complete sentence.	because I like coffee
Simple Sentence	A sentence that has only one independent clause.	I like coffee. <u>Juice</u> is good for my health.
Compound Sentence	A sentence that has two or more independent clauses.	I like coffee, <u>but</u> juice is better for my health.
Complex Sentence	A sentence that has one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.	When I learned that juice is better for my health, <u>I stopped</u> drinking coffee.
Compound-Complex Sentence	A sentence that has at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.	I like coffee, <u>but</u> I gave it up because juice is better for my health.

Using Short and Simple Sentences

Refer again to the Coffee Payment Survey question on page 88. Then look at this paragraph from a response.

I would like to pay \$15 per month. I drink a lot of coffee at work. Other people drink a lot of coffee or tea as well. It helps keep us awake. It helps us get things done. Most of us have at least one cup of coffee or tea each day. There are at least 20 days of work in a month. The \$1 per coffee option would cost each of us upwards of \$20 a month. The \$15 per month option would be cheaper. It would encourage people to drink more coffee. Drinking more coffee would boost overall productivity. I hope our company will offer the \$15 per month option. It would allow us to save money. We could also work harder.

This writer relies completely on simple sentences. Since each simple sentence presents one idea, it is challenging for the reader to know which ideas are more important.

Using a Variety of Sentence Types

Look at the edited response below to see how the writer could improve this paragraph.

I would like to pay \$15 per month. Like everyone else, I drink a lot of coffee at work. It helps keep us awake **and** get things done. Most of us have at least one cup of coffee or tea each day, **and** there are at least 20 days of work in a month; **therefore**, the \$1 per coffee option would cost each of us upwards of \$20 a month. In contrast, the \$15 per month option would not only be cheaper, it would encourage people to drink more coffee, thus boosting overall productivity. In view of these factors, I hope our company will offer the \$15 per month option, which would allow us to save money **and** work harder.

Notice how this writer uses a variety of linking words and phrases (in blue) to express how each idea relates to the one before or after. This helps the reader know which ideas are most important. In addition, the changing sentence length and structure helps the reader stay interested and involved.

You can use conjunctions and linking words or phrases to show how the next idea relates to the one you just wrote about. See the chart on the next page for several different categories of linking words and phrases.

LINKING WORDS AND PHRASES

SEQUENCE	COMPARISON	CONTRAST
to start with,	similarly,	although
in addition,	likewise,	on the other hand,
moreover,	similar to	on the contrary,
another/also	just as	in contrast to
lastly/finally,	correspondingly,	conversely,
RESULT	REASON	EXAMPLE
as a result,	because	for example,
consequently,	since	for instance,
therefore,	so	such as
due to	so that	namely,
accordingly,	in order that	including

Activity 10

For each set of sentences below, create one compound or complex sentence using several conjunctions and/or linking words and phrases. You may make small grammatical changes (word form, adding or taking away a few words, etc.) so long as you don't change the meaning. The first one has been done for you.

it follows that	than	by	and results in
because	which	since	when
and	as a result	because	

1. Most employees drink two coffees a day.
They work 5 days per week.
They pay \$10 per week for coffee.

Since most employees drink two coffees a day and work 5 days per week, it follows that they pay \$10 per week for coffee.

2. I would like to pay \$15 per month.
It is more convenient.
I don't need to pay with cash.

-
-
3. It can be irritating to pay each time.
This may distract us from our work.
We may worry about having cash.

4. It will reduce my coffee expenses.
 It will help me save money.
 I consume a lot of coffee every day.
-
-

5. This plan makes coffee and tea affordable.
 It increases social interaction for the staff.
 It will make the employees happy.
-
-



Activity 11

Now you will practice linking simple sentences within the context of a response to Task 2. Read the response on the next page to the Parking or Bike Lane Survey question, and complete the response by selecting a suitable linking word or phrase from the chart.

Writing Task 2: Responding to Survey Questions

Time remaining: 26 minutes 0 seconds [NEXT](#)

1 Read the following information.

Parking or Bike Lane Survey

You live in an old neighbourhood in the city where cars can park on both sides of the street. Recently, cyclists have asked the local government to replace the parking spaces on one side of the street with a bike lane. This means that cars can park on only one side and only bikes can use the other side. The government has asked you to respond to an opinion survey.

1 Choose the option that you prefer. Why do you prefer your choice? Explain the reasons for your choice. Write about 150-200 words.

- Option A: I think the city should replace parking spaces on one side of the street with a bike lane.
- Option B: I think the city should keep parking spaces on both sides of the street.

Type your response here.

4 words

that	consequently	when	
as a result	for example	because	
similarly	to start with	another	

I believe that replacing parking spaces on one side of the street with a bike lane is more convenient.

[1] _____, I am sure that most residents would agree [2] _____ maintaining parking lanes on both sides of the street is a waste of space [3] _____ there are few visitors in our residential neighbourhood. [4] _____, many of our residents aren't drivers and [5] _____ they don't need to park on the street.

[6] _____ key factor is safety for cyclists, [7] _____ the majority of Calgarians don't think about this. Many of our residents are cyclists and [8] _____, we are concerned for our well-being [9] _____ cycling in our neighbourhood. Installing a bike lane should reduce the possibility of accidents involving cars and bicycles.

[10] _____, I recently heard about a car accident on my street which claimed a life.

Let's put safety before convenience. Let's put people before cars! I look forward to having bike lanes in our neighbourhood soon.



Tip Using only long, complex sentences can be a mistake! Sometimes using short, simple sentences is an effective way to emphasize a key point, as shown in the last paragraph above.



Improving Your Work

In Writing Task 2 you need to write a persuasive argument to support your opinion. You also need to pay attention to other things including your vocabulary choices, format, tone, register, grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence variety, and word count. There are many things to think about during the Writing Test, and it is difficult to get them all right on the first try! Devoting a few minutes to reviewing your response and making it better before your task time is up can actually make a difference.

When you review your work during the test, keep in mind the Writing Checklist from Unit 7 (this is repeated on the next page), and add these questions for Task 2:

- Have I expressed my opinion clearly?
- Have I provided at least two logical reasons to justify my choice?
- Have I supported each reason with relevant details?

Activity 12

Look again at the Discount Cards Survey question below and answer the questions about the sample response.

Writing Task 2: Responding to Survey Questions

Time remaining: 26 minutes 0 seconds [NEXT](#)

1 Read the following information.

Discount Cards Survey

You work in a large general retail store. Your employer has decided to give discount cards to all its full-time employees. This will allow the staff to save money on goods in the store. The employer is asking your opinion on two discount card options.

1 Choose the option that you prefer. Why do you prefer your choice? Explain the reasons for your choice. Write about 150-200 words.

Option A: I prefer a 20% discount on all products, not including groceries.

Option B: I prefer a 10% discount on all products, including groceries.

Type your response here.

4 words

Hi,

The first thing is I am really thankful to you for giving me a discount offer and time to choose from two. I want to choose the 10% discount on all products, including groceries. The main reason to choose this option is that I have a large family. My mom and dad live with me and I have three kids. I have a lot of family nearby. On weekends lots of people come to my home. My wife really likes to invite family for lunch or dinner and she wants to serve them homemade food. I need a lot of food.

I checked my shopping bills from the last three months. My food bill is more than other

purchases. The kids eat a lot of food so we buy food every day. I think this is more important than other products. We need other products just once in a while, so give me 10% discount on all products.

Thanks a lot.

162 words

- When this test taker reviews his response, will he answer “Yes” or “No” to each of these questions? After you answer, read the explanations in the Answer Key.
 - Have I expressed my opinion clearly?
 - Have I provided at least two logical reasons to justify my choice?
 - Have I supported each reason with relevant details?
- Look at the Writing Checklist and think about this response. Which answers should be “No”?

CELPPIP WRITING CHECKLIST

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1. Is my meaning clear?			
2. Are the ideas organized logically?			
3. Have I rephrased key ideas?			
4. Have I chosen descriptive and precise words and phrases?			
5. Is my format correct?			
6. Do my paragraphs make sense?			
7. Have I used different sentence types and lengths?			
8. Are the tone and register appropriate?			
9. Have I used connecting words and phrases to connect ideas?			
10. Is each sentence complete?			
11. Have I minimized spelling, grammar, punctuation, and wording mistakes?			
12. Have I written 150–200 words?			





Activity 13

Here is a higher-level response for the same test question. Answer the questions and read the explanations in the Answer Key.

I would prefer the 10% option as I do all my shopping including groceries over the year from yours company. Working it out over a twelve month period for me to take the 20% discount which does not include groceries would mean that i would either be purchasing my groceries from another store at a higher cost to myself. Which when you think if i accept the lower percentage on all products including groceries I would be saving quite a reasonable amount financially and that your company would still be making an annual profit through my continued purchasing within the store.

I feel it is better for both you as a company and myself as a customer to have a smaller percentage over the whole range of products than a higher percentage on all products except groceries. I look forward to a continued customer employer bond that will continue for many years

151 words

1. Which things does this test taker handle well?

- a) Vocabulary
- b) Sentence variety
- c) Tone and register
- d) All of the above

Now go back to the response and fix the three big problem areas of format, capitalization and punctuation, and reasons. Try to fix problems with sentence structure as well. Then check your response with the edited version in the Answer Key.