

Essay Writing

- Upgrading Your Exam Essay Writing -

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Coming Up Next!

Attacking the Rubric.

How to not ruin a
score.

The 12 Step Problem
Program.

What do examiners expect from High Scorers

01

Have good grammar and mistake-free sentences with grammar and spelling.



02

Vary your language in terms of lexical and grammatical range.



03

Have a logical, organized, and properly sequenced structure.



04

Be consistent in your ideas and expand/explain them in a way that answers the question.



Essay Writing Mistakes

Poor Progression and Sequencing

Using Contractions, Poor Punctuation, Capitalization
Informal Language

Poor Coherence

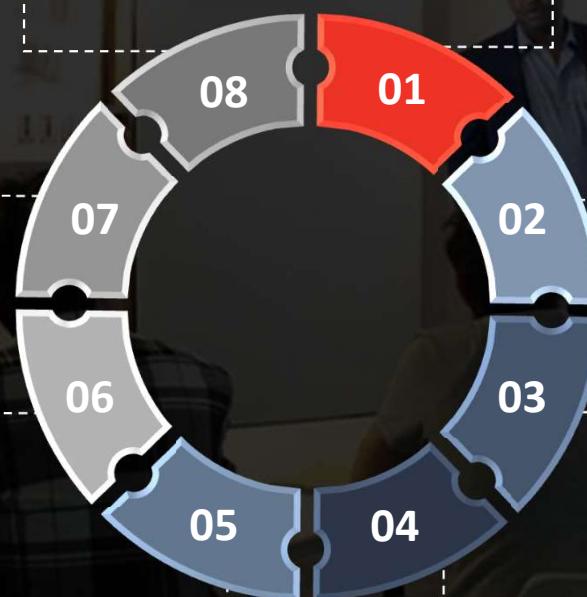
Not Addressing the Question Directly

Writing Too Few or Too Many Words

Run-On Sentences, Fragments

Lack of Expansion or Extending Ideas

Lack of Foundational Grammar and Lexical Control



Upgrading Your Writing

Lessons for Higher Scores

1. We will review ways in which you can upgrade your writing.

2. We will do this by introducing and correcting 12 mistakes or problems that students make in their essay writing.



The image is a collage of three distinct scenes. On the left, a man in a blue suit stands at a whiteboard, presenting to a group of people seated around a table. The room has a whiteboard wall and a large lamp. In the center, a man in a dark suit stands in front of a wall covered in text. On the right, a large white text box contains the title and subtitle.

Coming Up Next!

Problem 1

Poor Question Analysis

Failing to Analyze =
unfocused writing

Writing Weakness: Poor Question Analysis

Question Analysis



- You must stay directly in the box of the question.***
- You are not asked to write about the question topic in general.***
- Poor question analysis leads to scores below a 7.***

Questions:

1. Every year we get reports of dwindling natural resources on Earth. Choose one resource and explain why you would choose to save that resource.
2. Infectious diseases have affected mankind for 1000s of years, and now we face the coronavirus. Compare and Contrast life before Covid-19 with life after Covid-19?
3. Robots are increasingly taking over daily work and home tasks. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of this phenomenon?
4. Technology is constantly being replaced or updated. Name one technology you would replace. Explain why.

The Elements of Question Analysis

Question Analysis



- You must stay directly in the box of the question.*
- You are not asked to write about the question topic in general.*
- Poor question analysis leads to scores below a 7.*

Question Analysis Process:

- 1. General Topic**
- 2. Restrictive/Limiting Language**
- 3. Direction/Instruction Words**

Every year we get reports of dwindling natural resources on Earth. Choose one resource and explain why you would choose to save that resource.

- 1) General Topic: Natural Resources
- 2) Restrictive Language: Choose one to save
- 3) Direction Words: Explain/Opinion

A

Infectious diseases have affected mankind for 1000s of years, and now we face the coronavirus. Compare and Contrast life before Covid-19 with life after Covid-19?

- 1) General Topic: Infectious Disease
- 2) Restrictive Language: before and after covid
- 3) Direction Words: Compare and Contrast

B

Robots are increasingly taking over daily work and home tasks. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of this phenomenon?

- 1) General Topic: Robots
- 2) Restrictive Language: Replace home and work tasks.
- 3) Direction Words: Benefits and Drawbacks

C

Technology is constantly being replaced or updated. Name one technology you would replace. Explain why.

- 1) General Topic: Technology
- 2) Restrictive Language: 1 tech to replace
- 3) Direction Words: Explain/Opinion

D

Question Analysis



Coming Up Next!

Problem 2

Lack of Outlining

Lack of planning
connects with failure

Weakness: Poor or Lack of Outlining

Outlining



- You must stay directly in the box of the question.*
- You are not asked to write about the question topic in general.*
- Poor question analysis leads to scores below a 7.*

Questions:

1. Every year we get reports of dwindling natural resources on Earth. Choose one resource and explain why you would choose to save that resource.
2. Infectious diseases have affected mankind for 1000s of years, and now we face the coronavirus. In two areas of life, Compare and Contrast life before Covid-19 with life after Covid-19?
3. Robots are increasingly taking over daily work and home tasks. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of this phenomenon?
4. Technology is constantly being replaced or updated. Name one technology you would replace. Explain why.

Correction: Poor or Lack of Outlining

Essay Questions

1. Every year we get reports of dwindling natural resources on Earth. Choose one resource and explain why you would choose to save that resource.
2. Infectious diseases have affected mankind for 1000s of years, and now we face the coronavirus. In two areas of life, Compare and Contrast life before Covid-19 with life after Covid-19?
3. Robots are increasingly taking over daily work and home tasks. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of this phenomenon?
4. Technology is constantly being replaced or updated. Name one technology you would replace. Explain why.

Brief Outlining: Normally Conducted on Exam

Choice: Forests

1. Controlling Idea #1: Air/Atmosphere
 - a. Supporting detail: Provide Oxygen
 - b. Supporting detail: Clean Toxins
2. Controlling Idea #2: Essential Resources
 - a. Supporting Detail: For Humans
 - b. Supporting Detail: For Animals

Correction: Poor or Lack of Outlining

Essay Questions

1. Every year we get reports of dwindling natural resources on Earth. Choose one resource and explain why you would choose to save that resource.
2. Infectious diseases have affected mankind for 1000s of years, and now we face the coronavirus. In two areas of life, Compare and Contrast life before Covid-19 with life after Covid-19?
3. Robots are increasingly taking over daily work and home tasks. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of this phenomenon?
4. Technology is constantly being replaced or updated. Name one technology you would replace. Explain why.

Total Outlining: Preferred

Choice: Forests

1. **Controlling Idea #1:** Air/Atmosphere
 - a. Supporting detail: Provide Oxygen
 - b. Supporting detail: Clean Toxins

Topic Sentence: One reason forests take precedence over relates to our atmosphere.

2. **Controlling Idea #2:** Essential Resources
 - a. Supporting Detail: For Humans
 - b. Supporting Detail: For Animals

Topic Sentence: Not only because of the atmosphere but forest preservation should also rank higher due to the essential resources provided.

Thesis Statement: Although many resources need saving protecting forest rises above all others due to its impact on the atmosphere and essential resources.

Correction: Poor or Lack of Outlining

Essay Questions

1. Every year we get reports of dwindling natural resources on Earth. Choose one resource and explain why you would choose to save that resource.

2. Infectious diseases have affected mankind for 1000s of years, and now we face the coronavirus. In two areas of life, Compare and Contrast life before Covid-19 with life after Covid-19?

3. Robots are increasingly taking over daily work and home tasks. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of this phenomenon?

4. Technology is constantly being replaced or updated. Name one technology you would replace. Explain why.

Total Outlining: Preferred

1. **Controlling Idea #1: Life Before**
 - a. Supporting detail: Work
 - b. Supporting detail: Transportation

Topic Sentence: Before examining the impact of covid-19 one must first explore how certain industries operated before it occurred.

2. **Controlling Idea #2: Life After**
 - a. Supporting Detail: Work
 - b. Supporting Detail: Transportation

Topic Sentence: With the “before covid-19” analysis complete, we can now turn to examining impacts on these same industries after covid-19.

Thesis Statement: This essay will compare and contrast life before and after the arrival of covid-19.



Coming Up Next!

Problem 3

Grammar Mistakes and Low-Level Lexical

You need to be
MINDFUL

Weakness: Foundational Grammar Mistakes and Low-Level Lexical Ability (Repeated and Weak Words).

Foundational Mistakes



- Look at this paragraph and spot the mistakes.*
- Sweat the Small Stuff.*
- Tell me what is wrong with each sentence.*

Mistake Filled Paragraph:

(1) Work are one of the most important aspect of a person life but people don't like their work for many reason. (2) The person who work next to me complains that he don't like his work and this paragraph will detail his reasons. (3) While he loves the money. (4) Also , he don't like his work it does not give good ways to advance he feels very depressed. (5) however he also feels that the boss don't compliments his work the boss don't thinks he cares about his work.

Identified Weakness: Foundational Grammar/Lexical Mistakes

Identified Errors



- The words highlighted in yellow represent grammar issues.*
- The words in blue represent weak or repeated vocabulary.*
- Writing at an advanced level is about mistake-free writing and range of lexical and grammatical ability.*

Work are one of the most important aspect of a person life (missing punctuation) but people don't like their work for many reason. The person who work next to me complains that he don't like his work and this paragraph will detail his reasons. While he loves the money. Also , he don't like his work it does not give good ways to advance (missing conjunction) he feels very depressed. however he also feels that the boss don't compliments his work the boss don't thinks he cares about his work.

Correcting Foundational Grammar/Lexical Mistakes

Mistake-Free Writing

- *Look at this paragraph with the weaknesses corrected.*

Work **are** one of the most important aspect of a **person** life, but **people don't** like their **work** for **many reason**. The **person** who **work** next to me complains that he **don't** like his **work** and this paragraph will detail his **reasons**. **While he loves the** money. Also , he **don't** like his **work** it does not **give good ways** to advance (**missing conjunction**) he feels very depressed. however he also **feels** that the boss **don't** compliments his **work** the **boss don't** thinks he cares about his **work**.

Corrected Version:

Work is one of the most critical aspects of a person's life, but employees, like my co-worker, dislike their job for various reasons. The colleague employed next to me complains that he does not enjoy his employment, and this paragraph will detail his grounds. While my workmate loves the money, there are a few more work issues that he maintains exist. One issue relates to the lack of more promotions, which leads to his bouts of depression. The final complaints relate to his supervisor since he refrains from complimenting his production, and this manager believes my friend lacks motivation.

Weakness: Foundational Grammar Mistakes

Foundational Mistakes



- Look at these sentences and spot the mistakes.*
- Can you identify the specific grammar error?*
- Sweat the Small Stuff.*
- Tell me what is wrong with each sentence.*

Mistake Filled Sentences:

- (1) Research into space explorations lead to the development of thermometers, cordless tool, and shoe insole.
- (2) Computer skills is important even in todays growing usage of cellular devices for everything.
- (3) The best way to manage recycling problem is through public education campaign.
- (4) Working long hours is a problem that can lead to increase levels of frustration with coworkers, managers, and even family members.
- (5) Rising levels of carbon dioxide in the air will ultimately cause the polar ice caps to melt this should be prevented by passing laws to punish offenders.
- (6) Because governments have not yet taken sufficient action on the matter.

Bonus Problem: Generic, unfocused thesis: *I agree/disagree with.....I have a couple of reasons that I will explain in the following paragraphs.*

Correction: Foundational Grammar Mistakes

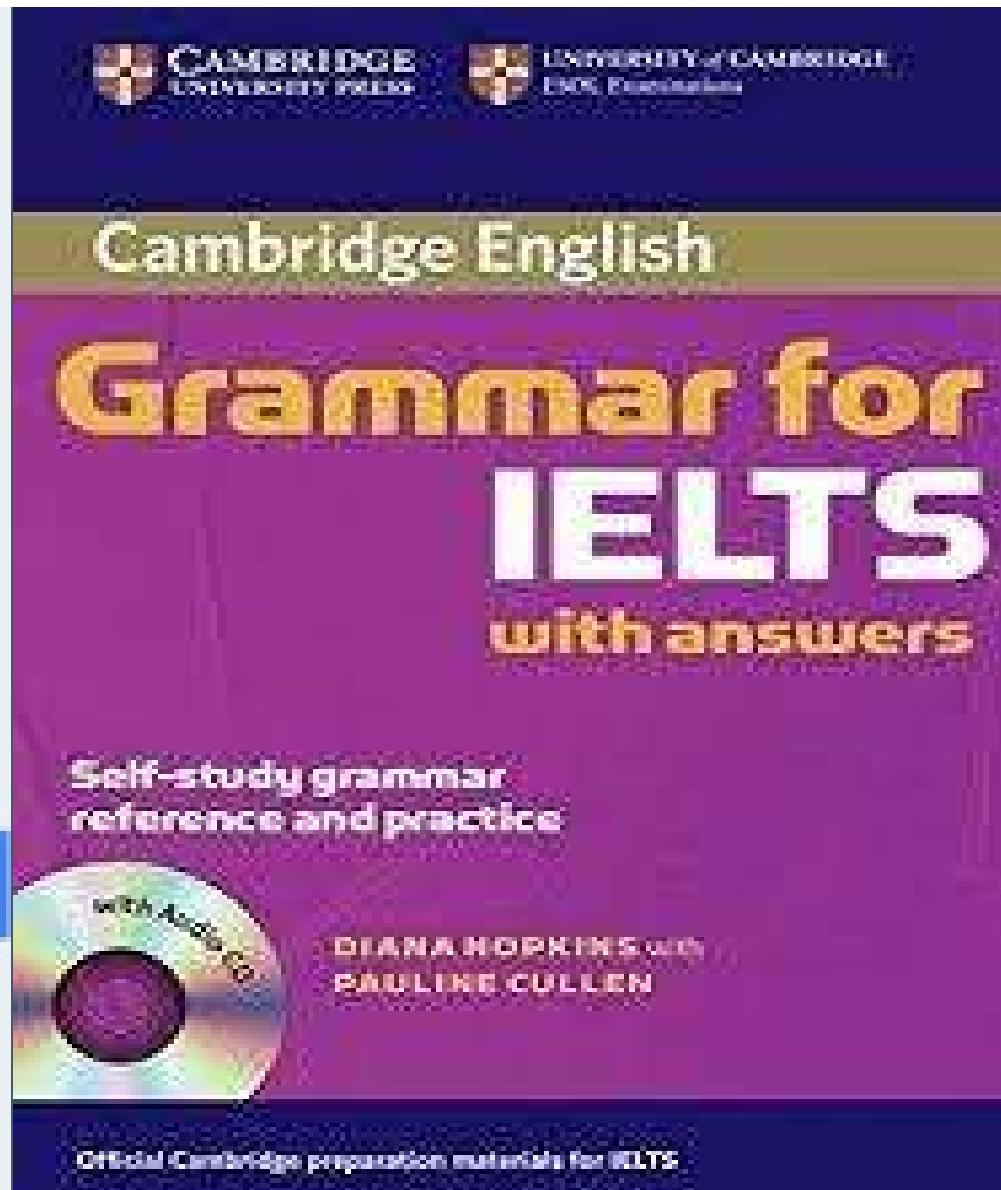
Foundational Mistakes

Look at these corrected sentences and do not make these mistakes.

Unique, focused thesis: Since this technology has educational, employment, and health benefits, the Internet has had a positive impact on our way of life.

Corrected Mistake Filled Sentences:

1. Research into space exploration lead to the development of thermometers, cordless tools, and shoe insoles.
Problem: space exploration is non-countable
Problem: lack of parallelism (all in the list must be plural because the first is plural)
2. Computer skills are important even in today's growing usage of cellular devices for everything.
Problem: non-verb agreement ("is" should be "are") ("todays" should be "today's")
3. The best way to manage the recycling problem is through a public education campaign.
Problem: Missing Articles ("the recycling problem" "a public education")
4. Working long hours is a problem that can lead to increased (an increase in the) levels of frustration with coworkers, managers, and even family members.
Problem: noun phrase starting with a gerund require the proper form around "increase"
5. Rising levels of carbon dioxide in the air will ultimately cause the polar ice caps to melt, and this should be prevented by passing laws to punish offenders.
Problem: Run-On Sentences
6. The problem has gotten worse because governments have not yet taken sufficient action on the matter.
Problem: Sentence Fragments





Coming Up Next!

Problem 4

No Sentence Variety
or Coherence

You Need Range

Weakness: Low-Level Writing (No Sentence Variety, No Coherence)

Weak Writing



- Look at this body paragraph. What are the problems in this body paragraph that is supposed to represent advanced-level writing?*

Questions:

First smoking can result in cancer. Cancer results in death. Smoking can result in bad lungs. The lungs are black. The bad lungs reduce breathing. Smoking can result in damaged teeth. Smoking causes bad eyesight. Smoking makes people have a bad immune system.

Repairing Low-Level Writing

Correcting Weakness



Look at this body paragraph. What are the problems in this body paragraph that is supposed to represent advanced level writing?

Paragraph Repair:

First smoking can result in cancer. Cancer is a cause of death. Smoking can result in bad lungs. The lungs are black. The bad lungs reduce breathing. Smoking can result in damaged teeth. Smoking causes bad eyesight. Smoking makes people have a bad immune system.

1. Put in a Topic Sentence
2. Put in a Compound Sentence
3. Put in a Complex Sentence
4. Put in a sentence using a Correlative Conjunction (Both... and; Not only....but also).
5. Expand the reasoning about teeth.
6. Use paraphrasing/synonyms for repeated language.
7. Replace weak language.

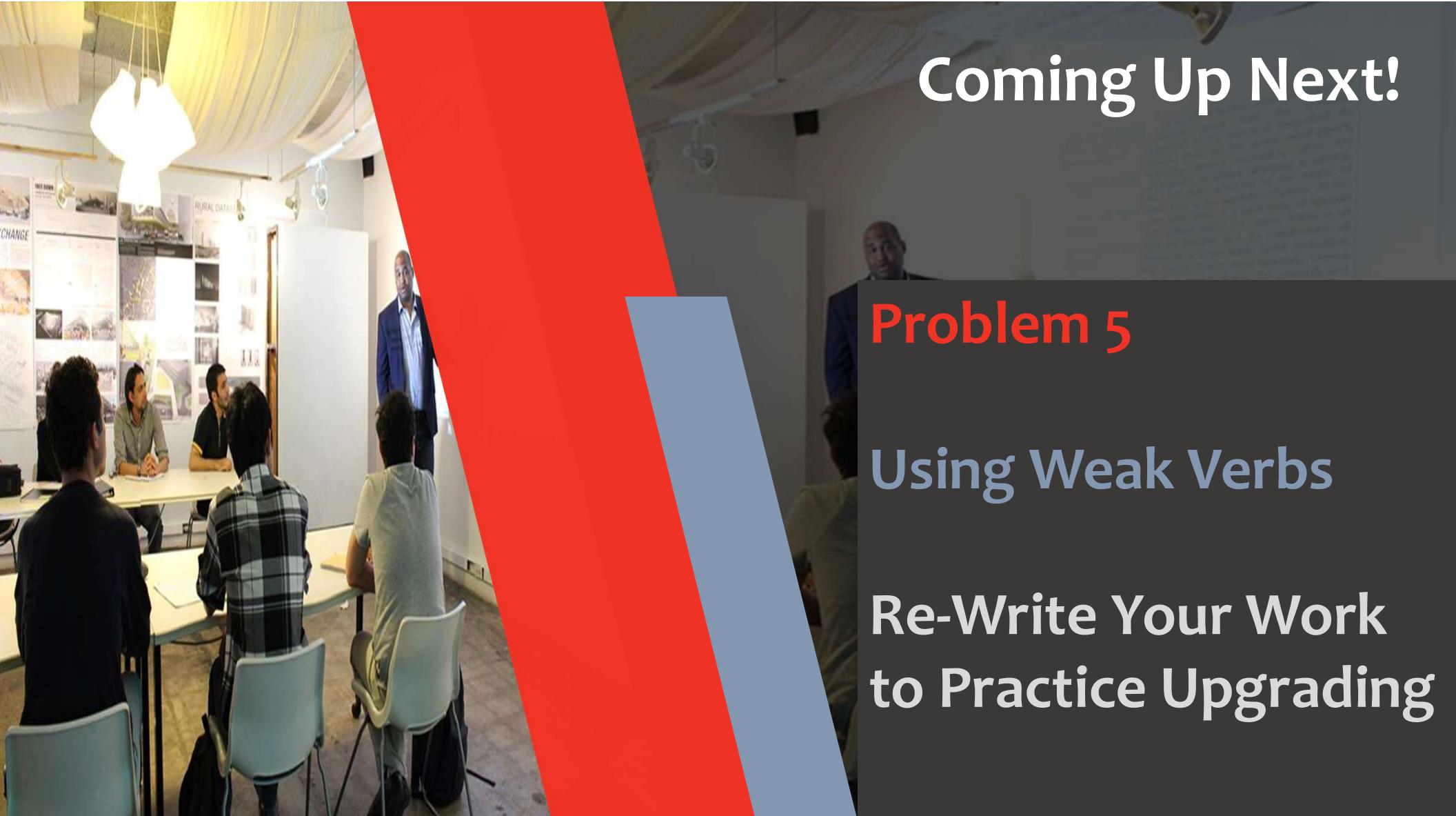
Repaired: Low Level Writing

How to Repair

1. Put in a Topic Sentence
2. Put in a Compound Sentence
3. Put in a Complex Sentence
4. Expand the Reasoning about Teeth.
5. Put in a sentence using a Correlative Conjunction (Both...and; Not only...but also).
6. Use paraphrasing/synonyms for repeated language.
7. Replace weak language.

Paragraph Repair:

One reason that policymakers should ban smoking relates to the associated health risks. A primary reason to forbid smoking relates to its accelerating cancer, which leads to a major cause of death. Another smoking ban-related consequence connects with deficient lungs since the tar turns them black, and reduces breathing capacity. Outside of the two aforementioned health problems, smoking brings about damaged teeth. According to most scientists, the gums are affected because smoking causes a lack of oxygen in the bloodstream, so the infected gums don't heal. Both poor eyesight and lower immunity derive from smoking, so the government should disallow smoking to maintain optimal citizen eyesight and physical health later in life.



Coming Up Next!

Problem 5

Using Weak Verbs

Re-Write Your Work
to Practice Upgrading

(1) Moving Up the Rubric: Eliminate Weak Writing

What to Repair

1. Replace the Weak Verbs with Strong Verbs
2. Weak Verbs Include: is, are, was, were, has, have, be, being, do.
3. Basically eliminate BE and Auxiliary Verbs.
4. Be verbs create verbose sentences that are full of functional language.
5. Eliminating weak verbs creates concise and precise sentences.

Eliminate Weak Writing:

1. Weak: She **is** the manager of the accounting department.
Revised: She **manages** the accounting department.
2. Weak: She **is** defending the border against the people who **have** bad intentions.
Revised: She **defends** the border against people **holding** bad intentions.
3. Weak: This play **is inspiring** to all those who struggle with depression.
Revised: This play **inspires** those who struggle with depression.
4. Weak: The monster **was** in the dark tunnel **creeping**.
Revised: The monster **crept** down the dark tunnel.
5. After we **do** our assignment, let's **do** the English homework.
Revised: After we **complete** our assignment, let's tackle/deal with/plunge **into** the English homework.

(2) Moving Up the Rubric: Eliminate Weak Writing

What to Repair

1. Replace the Weak Verbs with Strong Verbs

2. Weak Verbs Include: is, are, was, were, has, have, be, being.

3. Basically eliminate BE and Auxiliary Verbs.

Eliminate Weak Sentences:

6. It **is** my intention to transfer to a four-year university.

Revised:

7. There **were** some important findings resulting from this experiment.

Revised:

8. He struggled with the paper that **was** assigned by the professor.

Revised:

9. Electric car technology **was** in existence as early as 1830.

Revised

10. Negative advertising **is** influential on voters' perceptions of candidates.

Revised

(3) Moving Up the Rubric: Eliminate Weak Writing

What to Repair

1. Replace the Weak Verbs with Strong Verbs
2. Weak Verbs Include: is, are, was, were, has, have, be, being.
3. Basically eliminate BE and Auxiliary Verbs.

Eliminate Weak Sentences:

6. It is my intention to transfer to a four-year university.
Revised: I **intend** to transfer to a four-year university.
7. There **were** some important findings resulting from this experiment.
Revised: This experiment **resulted** in some important findings.
8. He struggled with the paper **that was assigned** by the professor.
Revised: He struggled with the paper **assigned** by the professor.
9. Electric car technology **was in existence** as early as 1830.
Revised: Electric car technology **existed** as early as 1830.
10. Negative advertising **is influential** on voters' perceptions of candidates.
Revised: Negative advertising **influences** voters' perceptions of candidates.

(4) Moving Up the Rubric: Eliminate Weak Writing

What to Repair

1. Replace the Weak Verbs with Strong Verbs
2. Weak Verbs Include: **is, are, was, were, has, have, be, being.**
3. Basically eliminate BE and Auxiliary Verbs.

Combine Several Weak Sentences into 1 Sentence:

Vague & Wordy

11. The food at the restaurant **is** excellent. The hamburgers **are** juicy. The onion rings **are** crispy. The pie **is** the best I have ever eaten.

Vague & Wordy

12. The restaurant's parking lot **is** narrow. **There are** not very many parking spaces and those **that are** available **are** too cramped.

13. The inefficient time manager **is unfulfilled**. He heads to bed, disappointed, despite having finished his to-do list.

14. The child **was** sad. The sensitive child **was** feeling that way because of the news story.

(5) Moving Up the Rubric: Eliminate Weak Writing

Combine Several Weak Sentences into 1 Sentence:

What to Repair

1. Replace the Weak Verbs with Strong Verbs
2. Weak Verbs Include: is, are, was, were, has, have, be, being.
3. Basically eliminate BE and Auxiliary Verbs.

11. The food at the restaurant **is** excellent. The hamburgers **are** juicy. The onion rings **are** crispy. The pie **is** the best I have ever eaten.

Revised: **Bold & Specific**

The restaurant **serves** excellent food, including juicy hamburgers, crispy onion rings, and the best pie I have ever eaten.

12. The restaurant's parking lot **is** narrow. **There are** not very many parking spaces and those **that are** available **are** too cramped.

Revised: **Bold & Specific**

The restaurant **suffers** from a narrow parking lot with only a few cramped spaces.

13. The inefficient time manager **is unfulfilled**. He heads to bed, disappointed, despite having finished his to-do list.

Revised: The inefficient time manager **heads to bed, unfulfilled, having checked everything off on his to-do list.**

14. The child **was** sad. The sensitive child **was** feeling that way because of the news story.

Revised: The news story **saddened the sensitive child.**



Coming Up Next!

Problem 6

Passive Voice Usage

Write in a way that
leads to higher scores

Reason #6 The Passive Voice

What to Repair

1. The passive voice is formed by using a form of the auxiliary verb "be" (be, am, is, are, was, were, being, been) followed by the past participle of the main verb.
2. We make the passive by putting the verb 'to be' into whatever tense we need and then adding the past participle. For regular verbs, we make the past participle by adding 'ed' to the infinitive.

Forming the Passive Voice:

Tense	Active	Passive
present simple	I make a cake.	A cake is made (by me).
present continuous	I am making a cake.	A cake is being made (by me).
past simple	I made a cake.	A cake was made (by me).
past continuous	I was making a cake.	A cake was being made (by me).
present perfect	I have made a cake.	A cake has been made (by me).
pres. perf. continuous	I have been making a cake.	A cake has been being made (by me).
past perfect	I had made a cake.	A cake had been made (by me).
future simple	I will make a cake.	A cake will be made (by me).
future perfect	I will have made a cake.	A cake will have been made (by me).

Writing Weakness: The Passive Voice

What to Repair

1. **The reason why students lose points is that they have no reason for using the passive voice, which reveals a lack of understanding of the rules.**
2. **The passive voice is normally used in scientific writing, and not normally in essays.**

Reasons to Use the Passive Voice:

1. Emphasis is on what happened, not who did it.

*Obama **was voted** the first black president.*

2. You don't know who did the action

*Fire **was invented** a very long time ago – even before I **was born**.*

3. Who does it is unimportant

*Smoking **is not allowed**.*

4. To stay/appear objective, scientific, technical or logical.

*Her clothes **were soaked**, suitcase **was broken** and her neck, **severed**.*

5. To appear diplomatic – especially when a mistake has been made.

*An error **has been made** and we plan to right that wrong.*

6. When we want to change the focus of the sentence:

The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci. (We are more interested in the painting than the artist in this sentence)

Writing Better: Changing the Passive to Active Voice

Change the Passive Voice to the Active Voice:

Active - Passive

1. Writing sentences in passive voice can obscure the subject of the sentence and confuse the reader.
2. In general, the active voice makes your writing stronger, more direct, and, you guessed it, more active.
3. When I ask students: Why are you using the passive voice, 90% cannot explain or have no idea why they are using the passive voice, which is why I advise remaining in the active voice unless you consciously intend to use the passive voice for one of the reasons.

1. More than five hundred children were evacuated from the town by the firefighters and volunteers.
2. It is believed by the teachers that students should be required to pass in order to go to the next grade.
3. The ball was kicked by Chester.
4. The money has been stolen by the criminals.
5. The town was destroyed by fire.

Correcting Passive to Active Voice

Active is Best!

1. In general, the active voice makes your writing stronger, more direct, concise and, you guessed it, more active.

Change the Passive Voice to the Active Voice:

1. More than five hundred children were evacuated from the town by the firefighters and volunteers.

Revised: The firefighters and volunteers evacuated more than five hundred children.

2. It is believed by the teachers that students should be required to pass in order to go to the next grade.

Revised: The teachers believe students should pass the test to go to the next grade.

3. The ball was kicked by Chester.

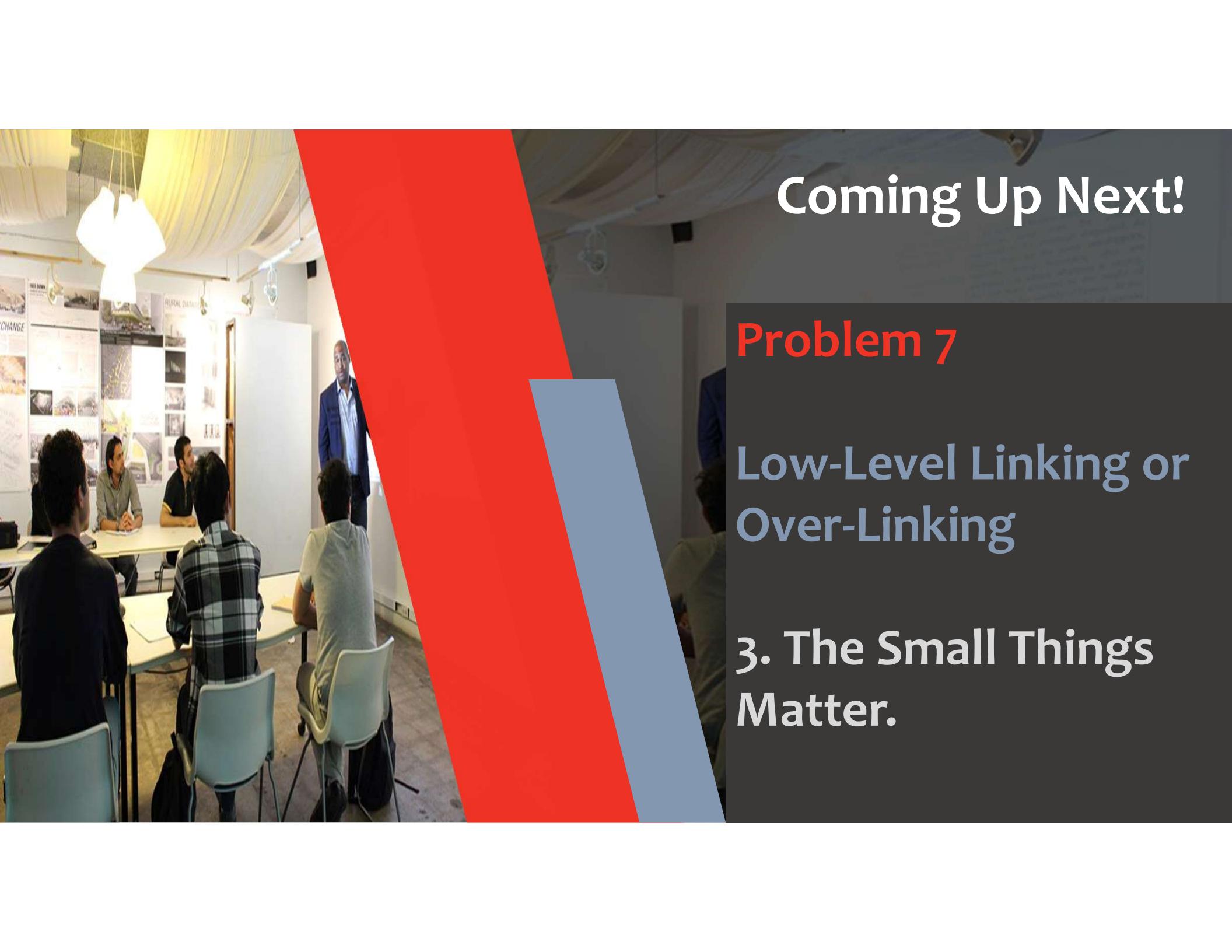
Revised: Chester kicked the ball.

4. The money has been stolen by the criminals.

Revised: The criminals have stolen the money.

5. The town was destroyed by fire.

Revised: A fire destroyed the town.



Coming Up Next!

Problem 7

Low-Level Linking or Over-Linking

3. The Small Things Matter.

What low-level linking?

Low-Level Linking is Bad



- At the basic level of English, students are taught to put foundational transitions at the start of every sentence.
- This makes writing very mechanical, but that is often the goal at the basic level.
- Students often use the same basic placement and words.

Student Response: Low-Level Linking and Over-Linking

Over-Linked and Low-Level:

Pollution signifies one significant combustion engine drawback, demanding its replacement. **First**, fossil-fuel engine vehicles promote environmental contamination through carbon dioxide emissions. **Next**, carbon dioxide emitted impurities advance global warming through heat reflection. **Second**, gasoline-powered engines give birth to nitrogen oxide that discharges airborne toxic brown gas. **Furthermore**, it combines with hydrocarbons to generate befouling ozone.

How do we repair the over-linking/low-level-linking?

What does high-level linking look like?

Increases Cohesion



- Establishes logical connections between information in a paragraph.
- They signal the relationship between ideas.
- Students often use the same basic placement and words.

Student Response: Proper Linking (High Level)

Properly Linked:

Pollution signifies one significant combustion engine drawback, demanding its replacement. **In short**, fossil-fuel engine vehicles promote environmental contamination through carbon dioxide emissions. **By and large, this** carbon dioxide pollutes through a greenhouse effect and acid rain when mixed with air moisture. **Along with** carbon dioxide pollutants, gasoline-powered engines birth nitrogen oxide that discharges airborne toxic brown gas. **This** oxide combines with hydrocarbons to generate befouling ozone. **Notwithstanding these points**, a further pertinent reason exists to exchange petrol-based engines outside of pollution.

How can we further improve this paragraph?



Coming Up Next!

Problem 8

Unsupported Claims and Assertions

Practice Catching Your Mistakes

Writing Mistake: Bad: Unanswered or Unsupported Claims/Assertions

Unsupported Assertions

- ❑ An unsupported assertion is a statement of fact without any evidence to support that fact. ☰ Avoid them in your essays.
- ❑ Whenever you give an opinion or make a claim about something, make sure that you have answered any obvious questions the reader might have.
- ❑ For every claim you make in your writing, you will be required to **prove** your point. Your opinions and generalizations will need factual detail (evidence) to support them.

*Some people think that **criminal behavior has genetic causes**. Others believe that it is circumstances that lead people to commit a crime. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Those who believe strongly in the role of genetics in determining future behavior can point to case examples. It is very common for the children of violent criminals to display some degree of abnormal behavior as children and later in life. In addition, genetic material from parents associated with traits generally low intelligence, poor diet, impulsivity, and hyperactivity can be passed on to children. The above-referenced claims lend support to those favoring genetics as the main cause of criminal conduct.

Correcting: Unanswered or Unsupported Claims/Assertions

Supporting Claims

- ❑ An unsupported assertion is a statement of fact without any evidence to support that fact. ☷ Avoid them in your essays.
- ❑ Whenever you give an opinion or make a claim about something, make sure that you have answered any obvious questions the reader might have.
- ❑ For every claim you make in your writing, you will be required to **prove** your point. Your opinions and generalizations will need factual detail (evidence) to support them.

*Some people think that **criminal behavior has genetic causes**. Others believe that it is circumstances that lead people to commit a crime. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Those who believe strongly in the role of genetics in determining future behavior can point to case examples. It is very common for the children of violent criminals to display some degree of abnormal behavior as children and later in life. For instance, a **schoolmate of mine who had violent parents often burned and mutilated animals**. In addition, genetic material from parents associated with traits generally low intelligence, poor diet, impulsivity, and hyperactivity can be passed on to children. **In IQ study after study, criminals with low intelligence have been found to have a higher percentage of crimes**. The above-referenced claims lend support to those favoring genetics as the main cause of criminal conduct.



Coming Up Next!

Problem 9

Imprecise or No
Subject-Specific
Vocabulary

Mistake-Free Writing
increases scores.

Upgrading Writing: Using Precise High-Scoring Vocabulary

Essay Question

Should wealthy people be obliged to share their financial success with poor people by supporting health services and education, or is this the responsibility of the poor to improve their own standard of living?

Introduction: Precise High-Scoring Vocabulary

*Human society deals with numerous challenges, but from **time immemorial**, income inequality has **plagued civilization**. **Whereas**, countries such as America live by the mantra “**every man for himself**”, others believe in **helping their neighbor**. This essay supports wealth-sharing and will cover specific approaches using real-world examples based on **social ends and historical policy**.*

plagued civilization time immemorial - collocation.

Whereas, but, - more advanced grammar structure.

“every man for himself” - correct use of idiomatic expression.

helping their neighbor - not exactly an idiomatic expression, but a stylistic way of referring to helping out others.

The following essay ... - Signals to the examiner the direction we will take the essay.

Upgrading Writing: Using Precise-Subject Specific High-Scoring Vocabulary

Essay Question

Should wealthy people be obliged to share their financial success with poor people by supporting health services and education, or is this the responsibility of the poor to improve their own standard of living?

Body Paragraph: Precise High-Scoring Vocabulary

Wealth redistribution levels the playing field through **social ends**. In Scandinavian countries, healthcare and education remain basic societal rights due to **reallocating individual earnings**. For example, recent articles highlight forced wealth-sharing amongst high earners and the **economically challenged**, increased a **higher sense of well-being among** those more well-off, and reduced depression among those **less economically fortunate**. **Not only** does health improve **but also** education since it allows free university education, **which in turn** marks these countries with the lowest employment. Therefore, although **undoubtedly contentious**, tremendous benefits exist for **rich and poor alike** to participate in wealth-sharing endeavors.

Wealth distribution, **higher sense of well-being**, **less economically fortunate** - collocation.

social ends - eloquent manner of expression and also less common than other expressions.

economically challenged - variation of language - not consistently using "the poor".

"levelling the playing field" - appropriate use of a specific idiomatic expression.
rich and poor alike - more sophisticated way to express "both".



Coming Up Next!

Problem 10

Not Directly
Addressing the
Question

Mistake-Free Writing
increases scores.

Writing Mistake: Not Directly Addressing the Question

What's the problem?

- Have you ever composed a beautifully written (brilliantly thought out) essay only to receive a disappointingly low score because you didn't address the topic? No matter how great your essay is, you'll never receive a high grade if you don't address the topic and stick to it.
- The most important job when answering an essay question is precisely that: to answer the question.
- Why do the following paragraphs not directly answer the question? This person wrote an Introduction, these 2 body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

In the future, all cars, buses, and trucks will be driverless. The only people traveling inside these vehicles will be passengers. Do you think that the advantages of driverless vehicles outweigh the disadvantages?-+

(Body 1) Several benefits reside with a future of automated cars. One tangible advantage connects with reducing human driver accident numbers and fatalities. Today, numerous road transport accidents occur due to reckless or sleep-induced driving. Another advantage relates to updated traffic rules easily transferred to the vehicle control unit, which would save valuable time now being wasted on teaching drivers. Currently, every government spends huge sums of money on driver education and motor vehicle law enforcement.

(Body 2) Notwithstanding these advantages, adopting human-free driven cars presents some drawbacks. Since software and technology would control the vehicles, the risk of devastating accidents due to bugs or hacking could increase. To drive this point further home, it will increase susceptibility to hackers and software glitches. An accident, in which a woman died, caused by a driverless car while still in beta mode, caused a great uproar a few years ago. Besides these arguments, not all roads, especially those in poor nations with ditches and poor roads, are not suitable for automated cars to run smoothly.

Correcting: Not Directly Addressing the Question

Directly Answering

- ❑ The most important job when answering an essay question is precisely that: to answer the question.
- ❑ YOU MUST PRESENT A CLEAR POSITION.
PRESENTING A CLEAR POSITION LEADS TO HAVING CLEAR PROGRESSION.
- ❑ Note: You do not use the conclusion to present whether you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. You never introduce new ideas or an unstated position in a conclusion.

In the future, all cars, buses, and trucks will be driverless. The only people traveling inside these vehicles will be passengers. Do you think that the advantages of driverless vehicles outweigh the disadvantages? -+

(Body 1) Several benefits reside with this essayist supporting a future of automated cars. One tangible advantage that directly enhances favoring this position connects with reducing human driver accident numbers and fatalities. Today, numerous road transport accidents occur due to reckless or sleep-induced driving. Another reason advantages sit higher on the totem pole relates to updated traffic rules easily transferred to the vehicle control unit, which would save valuable time now being wasted on teaching drivers. Currently, every government spends huge sums of money on driver education and motor vehicle law enforcement. These benefits should push one towards advocating for these cars of the future.

(Body 2) Notwithstanding this paper favoring the advantages, let us present the drawbacks of adopting human-free driven cars. Since software and technology would control the vehicles, the risk of devastating accidents due to bugs or hacking could increase. To drive this point further home, it will increase susceptibility to hackers and software glitches. However, this type of hacking accounts for a minuscule percentage of automated cars, so it is not more persuading that the above-mentioned benefits. Besides this argument, not all roads, especially those in poor nations with ditches and poor roads, are not suitable for automated cars to run smoothly. Nevertheless, this disadvantage might encourage development in poorer countries to bring forth these vehicles.



Coming Up Next!

Problem 11

Writing about the Topic and not the Question.

Accumulating Small Errors = Low Scores!

Correcting: Not Directly Addressing the Question

Mistake: Addressing the Topic Only

- Look at this body paragraph.
- Can you recognize the failure?

Computers are being used more and more in education and so there will soon be no role for the teacher in education. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

(Body 2)

Computers have been involved in education over the past 25 years, and this is increasing each year. With a computer, a person can search the internet for information. For example, if a university student needs to write a paper about artificial intelligence they can search the internet for information. Also, many parents have purchased computers for their children because they often have homework that requires them to type a response or conduct research. Despite computers being a great cost for a family, parents still put out for this expense because their children need this advantage. How different would the world look, if we did not have computers interlinked with education?

Correcting: Not Directly Addressing the Question

Mistake: Addressing the Topic Only

- ❑ The general topic here is computers in education, but the question requires a complete analysis of how computers affect the role of the teacher existing in the future.
- ❑ If you generally write about computers in education you have not really answered the question\

Computers are being used more and more in education and so there will soon be no role for the teacher in education. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

(Body 2)

Computers have been involved in education over the past 25 years, and this is increasing each year. With a computer, a person can search the internet for information. For example, if a university student needs to write a paper about artificial intelligence they can search the internet for information. Also, many parents have purchased computers for their children because they often have homework that requires them to type a response or conduct research. Despite computers being a great cost for a family, parents still put out for this expense because their children need this advantage. How different would the world look, if we did not have computers interlinked with education?

Correcting: Directly Addressing the Question

Mistake: Addressing the Topic Only

- ❑ The general topic here is computers in education, but the question requires a complete analysis of how computers affect the role of the teacher existing in the future.
- ❑ THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO ADDRESS ALL PARTS OF THE QUESTION.

Computers are being used more and more in education and so there will soon be no role for the teacher in education. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

(Body 2)

Despite the seemingly persuasive arguments above, one cannot wholly agree with this position because the computer can't subsume teachers' roles completely. Although this machine represents the most cutting-edge tool in the world, numerous tasks exist that computers cannot perform as excellently as a teacher. More specifically, computers excel at objective matters such as grammar and vocabulary but fail miserably in style, voice, and perspective, so teachers will not disappear. Even in the face of computers working more effectively than the teacher in some areas, they could not solve student doubts raised in their mind, so teachers will remain present since they face no programming or creativity limitations related to doubts. To exemplify, in the U.S, when students type papers in the computer lab, an instructor is always present to clarify doubts that are outside the bounds of computer programming. Therefore, over-dependence on computers is not feasible in light of the remaining requirements of a teacher's presence.



Coming Up Next!

Problem 12

Lack of Proofreading Work

Accumulating Small Errors = Low Scores!

Identified Weakness: Lack of Proofreading

Why Proofread

- The more grammar and lexical mistakes you have the lower your score drops.*
- The lower the level of Grammar and Lexical usage, the lower the score.*
- One of the biggest mistakes students make is failing to proofread (improve their work).*

What to look for when Proofreading:

1. Your identified typical weaknesses (verb tenses, Articles Prepositions, Commas, Spelling, Word order).
2. Weak (low-level) vocabulary
3. Repeated Language
4. Sentence Variety
5. Eliminating Weak Verbs (Accuracy)
6. Check Relevancy, Organization, and Coherence

Note: You need TIME to proofread, which means practicing completing an essay with 5 minutes to spare.

Identified Weakness: Lack of Proofreading

Why Proofread

Mistakes are made for three main reasons:

- You will make some mistakes simply because you were writing quickly.
- You will make some mistakes because of uncertainty.
- You will make mistakes due to foundational weaknesses.

How to stop making the same mistakes:

1. Proofread (Self, then Grammarly Premium)
2. If using Grammarly, do not allow it to correct the mistakes for you.
3. Once you have identified the mistakes, go back and re-write that sentence(s) on your own.
4. Use Grammarly and go back and check if the correction was made.
5. Study and master the mistake area.



grammarly



Can Grammarly
Help you
Prepare for
IELTS?

A real editor
tests Grammarly
for accuracy.

As the population is growing, cities need to find a solution and provide for their inhabitants with suitable housing options. Even though is seems like a very good option to build a smaller number of skyscrapers that will be sufficient for a larger groups of people to settle in and create their new homes, I believe that it would be more comfortable to live in a neighbourhood with low-rise buildings that will offer more peaceful environment to live in.

Living in a high-rise building often feels like having a whole city inside one building. For example, imagine living on the 9th floor of the building with 12 floors. Neighbours on the 10th floor are having their bathroom re done, family below you has new born twins and above you there is very passionate drums player who uses every spare second of the day to test his new set of drums. And this is only the beginning of the story, there are many more people living in the building and potentially contributing to the noisy environment. In such building, it can be very hard to find a calm and peaceful moment to simply enjoy the silence. On the opposite side, having only a few living spaces in the whole building means less people can move in and it is more likely to have a calmer environment.

47 All suggestions

• GRAMMAR

for

It seems that preposition use may be incorrect here.

ⓘ Learn more



⋮

• is · Correct your spelling

• a very good · Choose a different word

• a larger groups · Correct the article-noun agreement

• neighbourhood · Change the spelling

• more · Add an article

• in · Rewrite the sentence

• Even though is seems like a ver... · Rewrite the sentence

• the building · Correct article usage

Untitled document

his new set of drums. And this is only the beginning of the story, there are many more people living in the building and potentially contributing to the noisy environment. In such building, it can be very hard to find a calm and peaceful moment to simply enjoy the silence. On the opposite side, having only a few living spaces in the whole building means less people can move in and it is more likely to have a calmer environment.

Moreover, in a building where hundreds of people live in, it is likely that people are distant and they do not even know who their neighbours are. Often, people living next door are total strangers that you met only once or twice which can create a bit of an uncomfortable atmosphere. On the other side, living in a low-rise building that has only a few apartments, it is more likely that neighbours will connect and maybe even manage to organise weekend barbecue in front of their building. It is nice to have a familiar face around in case needed or simply to exchange few warm words on a Monday morning.

In the end, even if building a smaller number of buildings that provide more accommodation can me simpler and cheaper option, it is very important to think of the comfort and the living environment that people will face once that move in. For the reasons mentions above, I believe that a low-rise building is a better option to enjoy your living space with

47 All suggestions

• Neighbours · Change the spelling

• are having · Change the verb tense

• re done · Add a hyphen

• family · Correct article usage

• new born · Correct your spelling

• and · Add a comma

• you · Add a comma

• above you there is · Change the wording

• very · Correct article usage

• , there · Correct the comma splice

• building · Choose a synonym



THANK YOU

