Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? the best way to learn about a foreign country is to read the newspapers and magazines from that country.

Nowadays, taking ~~the~~ advantage~~s~~ of developed modern technologies, people are more likely to know about ~~the~~ foreign countries, and have more chances to travel abroad. Some people say that reading the newspapers and magazines from a country is the best way to learn about it. I think that is one approach, but not the best one.

First, traveling to ~~the~~ another country and interacting with the local people is better than just reading about it. The articles and photos on the magazines ~~are~~ always show only one view of a country. The author ~~are~~ is always trying leave you with the expression that he wants. However, if you stay in a place for some time, you will find more aspects or know the real life of the people. I can recall that the first time I went to Nepal, I saw a very different world there. From the guide book, the people were very poor, but what I saw was the opposite~~,~~. ~~a~~Although they had very low income, ~~but~~ the prices of commodities was also cheap ~~below the average~~. Unless you reach the land, you can~~not~~ never imagine ~~how~~ what it really looks like.

Second, the newspapers and magazines are mostly about local information, it may be boring if you are not familiar with their culture. It’s just like watching ~~some~~ local television programs of other states, maybe the local people will find it interesting, but ~~for~~ ~~us as~~ an outsider~~,~~ would not feel it has any relationship with it ~~us~~, so ~~we~~ they will think it's tedious.

Moreover, the newspapers and magazines are often written ~~with~~ in their own languages, in most cases we cannot understand them. For example, ~~once~~ ~~one~~ a friend once brought back a Japanese newspaper. At first glance, I felt it interesting, but I cannot understand Japanese. I just ~~read~~ looked at all the photos on the newspaper~~,~~. ~~and I cannot read any more~~. The newspaper is still lying ~~on~~ at the bottom of my bookshelf. It's impossible to learn about some countries by reading if you ~~just~~ cannot understand their language ~~what it is written~~.

In conclusion, in some situations because of some personal reasons you cannot go to ~~the~~ a foreign country and you do not have any friend from that~~e~~ country, you’ll probably get to know the country through reading. However, if you have the opportunity, going to the country and interacting with the people is the best choice.

**Rating [23]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **YOUR ESSAY'S RATING** |  |
| **CRITERIA & DESCRIPTION** | **RATING** |
| > Addresses the topic and task well, though some points may not be fully elaborated | 25 |
| > Displays unity, progression and coherence, though connection of ideas may be occasionally obscured | 23 |
| > May demonstrate inconsistent facility in sentence formation and word choice that may result in lack of clarity and occasionally obscure meaning | 23 |
| > May display accurate but limited range of syntactic structures and vocabulary | 20 |
| **TOTAL**   |  | | --- | | 23 | | 22.75 |

**Suggestions/Comments:**

**Logic:**

* Facts are backed by scientific evidence. Never use general statements (ie. People like to eat sheep.) unless it is general knowledge like “The sun rises in the east and sets in the west”.

**Structure (paragraphs):**

* Coherence. A sentence should contain no more than two clauses: independent and dependent. If there are more than that, the sentence is too long.
* A paragraph should contain more than one sentence. If your paragraph has only one, then it is too long. Avoid using “which” to minimize very long sentences.
* Keep paragraphs and sentences simple. Avoid using clauses as much as possible. A very long sentence is difficult to understand.

**Structure (sentence):**

* Article usage. “The” is used before singular or definite pronouns. “a” is used before a singular or indefinite pronouns that start with consonants. Use “an” if it starts with a vowel.
* Spelling. Check and double-check for spelling errors. One or two mistakes are acceptable. More than that signifies carelessness or lack of knowledge.
* Be mindful of the tenses used. Be consistent.
* Avoid repeating the same word more than twice in the same paragraph. Use pronouns and synonyms for variety.

**Argument:**

* Present arguments in sequence. One argument per paragraph. State your argument in the first sentence. The succeeding sentences should provide examples or evidence to prove your argument. It is not necessary to end the paragraph with a conclusion.
* The very last paragraph in your essay should be the conclusion. The first sentence summarizes all the evidence provided in the previous paragraphs and concludes with your final opinion in the last sentence.
* The ideas presented in the concluding paragraph has to agree with the opinion presented in the first. The only difference between the first and the last paragraph is the summary of arguments presented.
* Use quotes from famous people and scientific or historical fact rather than popular opinion to present strong arguments.

**Revision**

The changes you find here are only grammatical and mechanical. Any change in content is for you to incorporate.

By Leo ☺

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