

# Summary writing (argumentative writing)

"Did you hear what happened to Adam Last Friday?" Lindsey whispers to Tori. With her eyes shining, Tori brags, "You bet I did, Sean told me two days ago." Who are Lindsey and Tori talking about? It just happened to be yours truly. I can tell you that what they are saying is (a) not nice and (b) not even true. Still, Lindsey and Tori aren't very different from most students here at Linton High School, including me.

Many of our conversations are gossip.

An important negative effect of gossip is that it can hurt the person being talked about. Usually, gossip spreads information about a topic----breakups, trouble at home, even dropping out-that a person would rather keep secret. The more embarrassing or shameful the secret is, the juicier the gossip it makes. Probably the worst type of gossip is the absolute lie. People often think of gossipers as harmless, but cruel lies can cause pain.

If we know that gossip can be harmful, then why do so many of us do it? The answer lies in another effect of gossip: the satisfaction it gives us. Sharing the latest rumor can make a person feel important because he or she knows something that others don't. Similarly, hearing the latest rumor can make a person feel like part of the "in group." In other words, gossip is satisfying because it gives people a sense of belonging or even superiority.

Gossip also can have a third effect: it strengthens unwritten, unspoken rules about how people should act. Professor David Wilson explains that gossip is important in policing behaviors in a group. Translated into high school terms, this means that if everybody you hang around with is laughing at what John wore or what Jane said, then you can bet that wearing or saying something similar will get you the same kind of negative attention. The do's and don'ts conveyed through gossip will never show up in any student handbook.

The effects of gossip vary depending on the situation. Next time you feel the urge to spread the latest news, think about why you want to gossip and what effects your "juicy story" might have.

Write a summary according to the article in no more than 60 words.

We are likely to gossip as we don't care for it. However, as it is the negative person as well as it strengthens unwritten, unspoken rules, we prefer it. But negative effects avoid it. We should not spread it. Gossip can hurt even for sense all we



# UNIT 2 Cherishing Friendship

## GRAMMAR IN USE

Section A Read a story about the author's special experience of being ill abroad. Fill in the blanks with the proper form of the given words to make it coherent and grammatically correct.



### Good Luck Abroad

I was turning 70, and just as I was deciding how to celebrate, a brochure arrived from a seniors' travel company about a tour of the UK and Ireland. It was perfect to visit the birthplaces of my grandparents, Yorkshire and Connemara, where I'd always longed (1) to go (go).

The tour started off well in London with a sightseeing tour and a Thames boat trip. However, the next morning I began to feel unwell. I was admitted to Warwick Hospital and needed (2) to place (place) on an antibiotic drip. On regaining consciousness, I realised with horror that the tour had gone ahead and I had no one (3) to contact (contact) for help. Thankfully, a gentleman was found by the kind nurse (4) visiting (visit) another female patient next to my bed. They introduced themselves as Sue and Roger Bliss and offered to help me. From that moment the couple were my guardian angels, making sure I had everything I needed. They recommended me (5) not to leave (not leave) the hotel in their hometown. Each morning they came with magazines, books and special treats. When I was well enough, they took me to see places of historical interest. At dinner on the night before my flight home, I spoke of a friend in New Zealand who over the years had been there (6) listening (listen), advise and assist whenever needed, and how much this meant to me. I explained he was a retired surgeon. Sue suddenly exclaimed "Anne?" They happened (7) to meet (meet) years ago and had been friends for years.

Notes

Section B How can friendship contribute to our happiness? Read the passage and complete the tasks.

Notes

Task 1. Jack has written a passage about happiness and friendship and hopes to have it published in the *English Post*. Help him correct the mistakes. Each indicated line contains an error.



### Happiness and Friendship

There are lots of things that can contribute to happiness and fulfillment, and they vary with each individual. A 75-year-long study reveals that one common element (is believed playing) a vital role in most people's genuine, longstanding happiness. The study started at Harvard University in 1938 with 724 men, 60 of whom are still alive today. It is considered (being) the longest ongoing study on human happiness. After decades of observation, one of the study's leaders, Robert Waldinger, (came to this conclusion) good relationships keep us happier and healthier.

That's right, friends. Some people may falsely think that millions of dollars (have to make) so that they can be happy. But to be happy is as simple as building a strong relationship with a few people whose general presence you appreciate. Perhaps it is in some countries that loneliness (hadn't reached epidemic) levels, but here in America, making and holding onto friends is much easier said than (done) Americans tell themselves to develop a deep friendship before they get to know the counterpart better.

According to a new study, (making) new friends are incredibly difficult for Americans. In fact, the average American has not made a new friend in five years. Sure, you (happened to) make some casual connections in the past few years, but we're talking about someone you'd want to hang out at least every week. The study surveyed 2,000 Americans. While 45% said they had no problem going out of their way to make new friends, but when it (came to actually taking) action, things like work, family and a lack of hobbies are often a drag on them. Still, you need to step out of the comfort zone. A potential friend (is sure waiting) for you right now.

- (1) to play
- (2) is
- (3) has to come
- (4) hard to
- (5) hasn't been reached
- (6) be done
- (7) to make
- (8) have
- (9) that
- (10) surely



While hanging out with Hannah, I suggested I ride around after stopping at a restaurant.

I received a car as a birthday present from my father.

However, Sharon — Hannah's mother — reassured me that she and Hannah

While driving, I took a curve too fast and lost control of the car.

When the car finally came to a stop, both Hannah and I it was hurt.

Hannah and I were able to stay friendship for many years; I also grew to be more forgiving when wronged, all thanks to Sharon.

As a result of the injury, Hannah could no longer be modeling. I felt so guilty that I didn't know to what to say.

Task 2. Choose the best answers to the questions.

(C) 1. The author had expected Sharon to be \_\_\_\_\_ before they met at the hospital.

- A. relieved that both the young girls were still alive
- B. guilty of not being there to protect the two girls
- C. angry with the author for having caused the disaster
- D. disappointed at her for not being a good friend

(A) 2. The phrase **window dressing** in paragraph 8 most probably means something \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. inessential
- B. unsatisfactory
- C. undesirable
- D. misleading

(17) 3. In the years after the accident, the author \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. worried that the scars on Hannah's forehead were still visible
- B. doubted whether Sharon and Hannah had truly forgiven her
- C. refused to show up on grand occasions of Hannah's life
- D. learned to become a more forgiving person when wronged