

# Collins

English for Exams

*Get Ready for IELTS*

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**WRITING**

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Now complete the texts below with adjectives from the box. (More than one answer may be possible.)

A: We went to the opera last weekend and I enjoyed it very much. The singers were (1) *amazing* and the costumes were (2) ..... – all decorated with gold and jewels. The only bad part was that the performance was very long, three hours in total, so it was (3) ..... I fell asleep as soon as we arrived home!

B: I definitely recommend the dinosaur exhibition at the Natural History Museum. It is really (1) ..... because it explains everything clearly. The exhibition is divided into two sections; one is about the (2) ..... dinosaurs that ate other dinosaurs and the other section is about the (3) ..... dinosaurs that just ate plants. The only bad thing about the exhibition is that some of the dinosaur drawings are (4) ..... They don't look like dinosaurs at all!

**3** The word order of a simple statement in English is: **Subject + Verb + Object**. Extra information usually comes after this structure.

**Subject** + **Verb** + **Object** + *extra information*  
**Picasso** *Painted* the picture at his studio in Paris.

Now put the words and phrases in sentences 1–6 in the correct order.

- 1 a film / on Saturday night / My family / watched  
*My family watched a film on Saturday night.* .....
- 2 a bestselling book / Louise / gave me / for my birthday  
 .....
- 3 saw / a Shakespeare play / My sister and I / in London  
 .....
- 4 has / many interesting art galleries / Tokyo / nowadays  
 .....
- 5 opera / like / Older people / more than young people  
 .....
- 6 on the Internet / music / Most teenagers / listen to  
 .....

### *Watch Out!*

English word order is not usually flexible. Don't change the order S + V + O.

The film I like very much. ✗

I like the film very much. ✓

I visited with my friend the art gallery. ✗

I visited the art gallery with my friend. ✓

**4** Conjunctions are words which connect short sentences together to make one longer sentence. The most common conjunctions are: *and*, *but*, *because*, *so*.

I watched a film on television yesterday. I went to the cinema yesterday. (two similar ideas)  
I watched a film on television, *and* I went to the cinema yesterday.

I went to the rock concert. My friend recommended the rock concert. (action + reason)  
I went to the rock concert, *because* my friend recommended it.

I like novels about history. I don't like novels about crime. (two different ideas)  
I like novels about history, *but* I don't like novels about crime.

I enjoy taking photos. I bought a new digital camera. (reason + result)  
I enjoy taking photos, *so* I bought a new digital camera.

**Join the sentences using the conjunctions in brackets.**

**1** Maria likes reading detective novels. She likes reading books about history. (and)  
.....  
.....

**2** My parents go to the cinema at weekends. They do not watch television at weekends. (but)  
.....  
.....

**3** Young people should watch less television. Most programmes are not educational. (because)  
.....  
.....

**4** The Science Museum is free. I think it is good for families. (so)  
.....  
.....

## Part 2: Skills development

### Exam information | A Task 2 essay

Task 2 in the IELTS exam asks a question about a social topic such as the environment, education or the media. You must answer this question by giving your opinions, along with reasons and examples, in an essay. You must write at least 250 words and you should spend about 40 minutes writing the essay.

#### 1 Read the following essay title.

*All museums and art galleries should be free because they are an important part of a country's culture. How far do you agree with this statement?*

Which of the following is the **topic** of the essay, a, b or c?

- a A country's culture
- b The importance of museums and art galleries
- c Free entrance to museums and art galleries

Which of the following questions has the same meaning as the essay **question** above?

- 1 How much do you agree that museums and art galleries are an important part of a country's culture?
- 2 How much do you agree that it is a good idea for museums and art galleries to be free for cultural reasons?
- 3 How much do you agree that museums and art galleries are good?

### Exam tip | Understanding questions

Task 2 questions are often a sentence followed by one of the following questions:

*How far do you agree with this statement?* OR *To what extent do you agree with this statement?*

These questions mean: *How much do you agree with the sentence?*

#### 2 Read this essay question and tick the correct summary: a, b or c.

*Children watch too much television nowadays and this is bad for their education and development. How far do you agree with this statement?*

- a How much do you agree that if children watch too much television they do not learn or develop well?
- b How much do you agree that television is bad for children?
- c How much do you agree that watching television means that children learn nothing?

**3** Do these ideas agree or disagree with the statement in the essay question on the preceding page? Write A (agree) or D (disagree) next to the ideas.

- 1 There are many interesting and educational programmes on television. ....
- 2 Watching too much television makes children lazy because they do less sport. ....
- 3 Watching some television is fine but watching too much television is bad for children. ....
- 4 Many children learn through visual activities, so watching television can help them. ....

Which of these ideas do you agree with?

### Exam tip | Answer the question

Make sure you answer the question about the essay topic. Don't just write about the essay topic in general.

**4** Read the essay question and decide if ideas 1–6 answer the question or just describe the topic in general. Write Q (question) or T (topic) next to each idea.

*All children should learn to play a musical instrument at school. How far do you agree with this statement?*

- 1 Music is fun for children so they enjoy it. ...T...
- 2 Learning to play a musical instrument is a good idea because it helps children learn useful skills like coordination and self-motivation. ....
- 3 Learning to play a musical instrument is difficult so not all children can do it. ....
- 4 Listening to music helps children relax so it is good for their health. ....
- 5 Schools should include subjects such as music in the timetable because they are creative. ....
- 6 Learning a musical instrument at school is good but playing sport and other activities are also important for children. ....

**5** Read the essay question below and complete the sentences with your own ideas.

*Countries should not replace their traditional culture with modern culture. To what extent do you agree with this statement?*

- 1 Traditional culture is important because *it helps people connect with the history of their country.*
- 2 Modern culture is important because .....
- 3 Young people often prefer modern culture but .....
- 4 Both traditional and modern culture are popular so .....

Now write four or five of your own ideas about the same essay topic. Give your reasons and use the conjunctions: *and, but, because* and *so*.

### Exam tip | Think about ideas

In the IELTS test, spend two or three minutes thinking about your ideas before you start writing. Write your ideas on the test paper to help you remember them.

## Part 3: Exam practice

### Writing Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*Young people should spend more time on cultural activities such as music and theatre and less time on sport. How far do you agree with this statement?*

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 175 words.

### Progress check

How many boxes can you tick? You should work towards being able to tick them all.

Did you ...

use correct word order?

use the correct conjunctions to connect ideas?

answer the question and not simply write about the topic in general?

give reasons for your opinions and support them with examples?

# Review 1

## 1 Circle the correct option.

- 1 She likes watching television *but / and* she doesn't like playing computer games.
- 2 In 2010 the school *improved / improve* its computer facilities.
- 3 Most children *do / does* their homework in the evening.
- 4 I enjoy history lessons *so / because* I have a good teacher.
- 5 My father doesn't *playing / play* golf.
- 6 *Many / Much* museums are interesting for children nowadays.
- 7 My school has as *much / many* boys as girls.
- 8 I don't have as much homework *than / as* Jack.

## 2 Find seven more mistakes in this short essay and correct them.

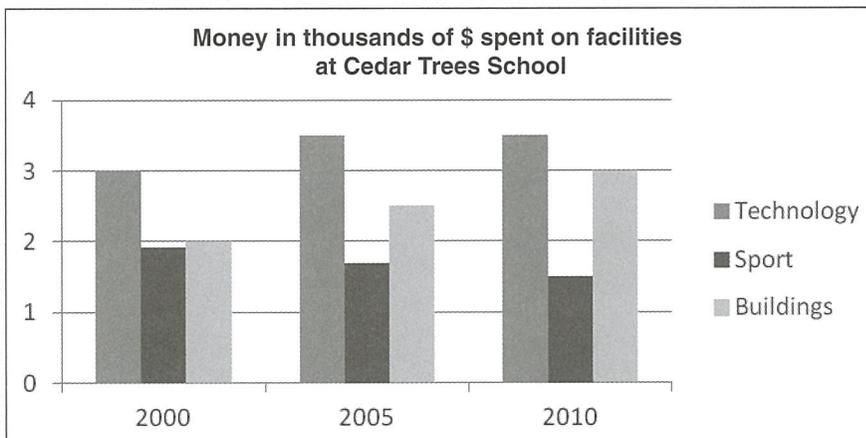
*The government should give more money to museums and art galleries and less money to sport. How far do you agree with this statement?*

*All Some people think museums are more important than sport but other people do not agree. In my opinion, art is much more important than sport.*

*Firstly, art shows of a country the culture so the government should give money to museums and galleries. If we did not have museums, we would not have many culture in the world. However, it is expensive to run a museum or art gallery because the government should help pay for this.*

*Sport is important too because it is fun and boring but people do not need many money to enjoy it. People playing sport in the park or they like watch it on television. These activities are cheap and they do not need money from the government.*

- 3** Put the sentences describing the bar chart in the correct order by numbering them 1–5.



- From 2000 to 2010 the school increased the money spent on technology from \$3,000 to \$3,500.
- We can see that in general the school spent most money on technology.
- The graph shows how much money Cedar Trees School spent on different facilities from 2000 to 2010.
- However, not as much money was spent on sport in 2010; the money for sport went down from \$2,000 to about \$1,500.
- Also, the money for buildings rose from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

- 4** Decide if ideas 1–5 agree or disagree with this essay question. Write A (agree) or D (disagree) next to each idea.

*Computer games are a part of modern culture like art and cinema. To what extent do you agree with this statement?*

- 1** Computer games are different from art but they are part of modern culture. ....
- 2** Art and cinema represent the culture of a country but computer games do not because they are not real. ....
- 3** Computer games are just entertainment so they are not part of modern culture. ....
- 4** Computer games often have excellent music and graphics so they are forms of art. ....
- 5** Computer games cannot be a part of modern culture because they are games. ....