

## Writing introductions

It is very important to make a good start to your essay. Writing a clear introduction gives you confidence in the exam and helps to make a good impression on the examiner. Many IELTS candidates panic because they do not know how to begin their essay. In this section, there is a formula which you can follow to help you respond to any advantages and disadvantages essay question quickly and clearly.

**1 Look again at the introduction to the essay from this unit in the table below. It consists of four sentences. Complete the table by matching the correct step from the formula (a–d) to the correct sentence in the introduction (1–4).**

- a Add an extra sentence to support the first.
- b Focus on the question in your own words.
- c Tell the reader your plan.
- d Write a general sentence about the topic (living/working abroad).

sentence	formula for introduction (advantages and disadvantages essay)
1 Nowadays, taking a year out to live or study abroad is becoming increasingly popular.	
2 For many people, especially young adults, the chance to spend an extended period of time overseas is an attractive one.	
3 However, there are both pros and cons to deciding to do this.	
4 In this essay, I will discuss some of the reasons why moving abroad is so popular and some of the challenges to be overcome.	

**2 Now read this question and a model introduction to it. The four steps in the introduction are in the wrong order. Rewrite it correctly.**

*These days, people work in more than one job, and often change career several times during their life. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?*

In this essay, I will look at both sides and try to draw some conclusions. Many have at least one change of career at some point in their lives. Nowadays, it is becoming more and more common for people to take two jobs. But what are the benefits of this situation, and what are the drawbacks?

**3 Write four-sentence introductions for these exam questions.**

**1 What are the pros and cons for children of watching television?**

**2 What are the advantages and disadvantages of using CCTV cameras to fight crime?**

### Tip

Looking carefully at the sample answers at the back of the book is another useful way to expand your vocabulary and improve the accuracy of your grammar. Check your answers, then check for new chunks and structures.

## Writing conclusions

At the end of any type of essay in the IELTS exam, you need to write a short conclusion. The important thing to remember is there are no right or wrong conclusions, and the examiner will not make any judgements about your opinions, so write freely and clearly.

**1 Look at the conclusion from the model essay on page 12.**

*All things considered, starting life in a foreign country is never easy. You need to weigh up the pros of the better lifestyle, weather and so on, and the cons of culture shock and language barrier. Personally, I believe the benefits in terms of personal growth eventually outweigh any negatives.*

**Now read another possible conclusion for the same essay.**

*In conclusion, there are clearly both positives and negatives to spending an extended period of time overseas. While going abroad can be a great experience and lead to a better lifestyle, for many people there are too many differences to cope with. In my opinion, if you go with the right attitude, moving overseas should be an absolutely unforgettable experience.*

**A good conclusion generally consists of:**

- 1 a general, one-sentence summary
- 2 a focused summary of the main points – avoiding repetition of vocabulary
- 3 something new/your opinion

**Look back at the two example conclusions above. Underline and number points 1–3 in both of them.**

**2 Bearing in mind points 1–3 from Exercise 1, rewrite this conclusion in the correct order.**

However, it can also be very difficult to cope with the new culture and language. In my view, having the chance to see life in another country can open up lots of exciting new experiences.

It is important to be happy wherever you are, as the grass is not always greener on the other side.

To sum up, living abroad is a challenging experience with both ups and downs.

**3 Look at the three conclusions in Exercises 1 and 2 and complete this table with any useful pieces of language.**

introducing a conclusion	expressing opinion	linking devices
<i>All things considered,</i>		

### Task

**4 Read the essay about the advantages and disadvantages of working from home on page 48, but cover the conclusion. Make notes about the main pros and cons and write a conclusion yourself. Then compare your answer with the original.**