

Academic IELTS – Writing Task 2

Exercise # 1

Read the task and the model given. Complete the missing information using the words in the box below. Use capital letters when necessary. **THERE IS ONE EXTRA WORD YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE.** (Exercise taken and adapted from Shaik, M. (2016) 230 IELTS Writing Samples. Unedited, India)

especially	because (x 3)	for instance	on the contrary
it seems to me	for example	in order to	due to
similarly	of course	for these reasons	however

Task > Machine translation (MT) is slower and less accurate than human translation and there is no immediate or predictable likelihood of machines taking over this role from humans. Do you agree or disagree? Write at least 250 words.

It is true that there have been great advances in technology over the last forty years. (1), the use of mobile phones and e-mail communication are common these days. (2), machines that translate from one language to another are still in their early stages.

(3) that a machine could never do as good a job as a human, (4) when it comes to interpreting what people are saying. (5), machines can translate statements such as 'Where is the bank?', but even simple statements are not always straightforward (6) the meaning depends on more than just words. (7), the word 'bank' has several different meanings in English. How does a translating machine know which meaning to take?

(8) understand what people are saying, you need to consider the relationship between the speakers and their situation. A machine cannot tell the difference between the English expression 'Look out!' meaning *be careful*, and 'Look out!' meaning *put your head out of the window*. You need a human being to interpret the situation.

(9) with written language, it is difficult for a machine to know how to translate accurately (10) we rarely translate every word. (11), we try to take into consideration how the idea would be expressed in the other language. This is hard to do (12) every language has its own way of doing and saying things.

(13) I feel that it is most unlikely that machines will take the place humans in the field of translating and interpreting. If machines ever learn to think, perhaps then they will be able to take on this role. (277 words)

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Exercise # 2

Read the task and the model given. Complete the missing information writing the most suitable word in each blank. (Exercise taken and adapted from Shaik, M. (2016) 230 IELTS Writing Samples. Unedited. India)

Task > Some people feel that certain workers like nurses, doctors and teachers are undervalued and should be paid more, especially when other people like film actors or company bosses are paid huge sums of money that are out of proportion to the importance of the work that they do.

- How far do you agree?
- What criteria should be used to decide how much people are paid?

Nobody can deny that there are certain professionals like nurses, doctors and (1) who are essential to the fabric of society, and (2) should therefore be rewarded accordingly. However, this is seldom the case. When we look at the salaries and fees commanded by certain film stars and actresses and people who run large companies, this does not seem fair.

(3) all, not all film stars (4) huge sums of money and salaries. In fact, at any one time in the UK, for example, roughly 80 per cent of actors are out of work and on top of that the number who are paid so-called 'telephone number fees' is even smaller. One must also remember (5) the career of many actors and actresses might be very short, and therefore, the money they may earn has to be spread over many years. The same applies to company (6)

Stating a set of criteria as to how (7) people should be paid is not easy. The idea of performance-related pay is very much in vogue at the moment. Rewarding people according to qualifications (8) long been used as a yardstick for paying people, but it is not a consistently good measure. Another is years of relevant experience, but there are many cases where a younger person can perform a task better (9) someone with lots of experience.

Whatever criteria are used to assess salaries, an on-going cycle will develop. This (10) create pressure in other areas. This considered, generally I feel that certain key professionals should have their salaries assessed by independent review bodies on an on-going basis so that they do not fall behind. (274 words)



Exercise # 3

Read the task carefully. Number the paragraphs in the correct order (1-6). (Exercise taken from Smart, B. (2015) IELTS Writing Band 9 Essays A Guide to Writing High Quality IELTS Essays. Strong & Bold Publishing. Australia)

Task > Many people are working at home rather than in the workplace. Some people believe this will bring benefits to the workers and their families, but others suggest it will cause stress in the home. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

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In addition, the breaks from work that most people take during the day can be used to perform household chores. The lack of other employees also means that there are no social norms, and in quiet periods an employee can read the paper or a book or even watch television, activities that would be socially unacceptable in an office environment but do not impact on performance and may lower stress and have a positive influence on wellbeing.

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In summary, working from home provides many advantages including lower costs, having more available time and being better for the environment. However, the time spent working from home must be managed carefully as there are risks of isolation, negatively impacting family life and loss of productivity.

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Working from home allows people to avoid the need to travel to and from work giving employees additional hours in the working week that can be used for either work related activities or provide a more balanced lifestyle. For example, the additional time could be used to take children to and from school.

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Employees will also have lower costs, particularly in relation to transportation. For instance, if one partner works from home a family may be able to avoid buying a second car providing them with significant savings. Savings may also be made in other areas such as food and entertainment costs.

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With technology increasingly being able to support a suitable home office environment, working from home is becoming an attractive option for many employees. Employees gain the advantages of being able to make better use of time and avoid costs associated with working, but at the same time this arrangement may interfere with their home environment. In this essay the merits of working from home compared to working in the office will be discussed.

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However, employees may experience significant difficulties in working from home. They have no physical barrier between their work and home life as their office is ever present and could interfere with having a normal family life unless carefully managed. Employees may also feel isolated as they do not have co-workers with them and may lose valuable information that is sometimes passed by casual interactions in the office and fail to have the opportunity to build the relationships that are essential for career development and promotion.

(384 words)

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