

Writing

An opinion essay

1  2.23 Read and listen to the essay. Do you agree with the opinion in paragraph B or C?

Will people ever live on the Moon?

- A Many people like the idea of going on holiday to the Moon, but will anyone actually live there in the future? Scientists have different opinions on this subject.
- B On the one hand, the number of people on Earth is growing and we are destroying our natural environment. If we aren't careful, one day we won't have any food or energy. If this happens, we will need to find a new place to live.
- C On the other hand, the Moon isn't a very comfortable place for human beings. There isn't any air or water, and the temperature is too hot or too cold. Maybe we will be able to improve conditions on the Moon, but it will be very difficult.
- D In conclusion, I don't think people will ever live on the Moon. In my opinion, the Earth is a better place for human beings.



2 Look at the Writing focus. How do you say *On the one hand* and *On the other hand* in your language?

WRITING FOCUS

On the one hand

On the other hand

In an opinion essay, we can make the two possible opinions clear with the phrases *On the one hand* and *On the other hand*. We often use them at the beginning of paragraphs.

On the one hand, computers are already very intelligent.

On the other hand, they haven't got feelings like human beings.

3 Look at the essay again. In which paragraph does the writer ...

- 1 give reasons why people probably won't live on the Moon?
- 2 give reasons why people might live on the Moon?
- 3 give a personal opinion on the subject?
- 4 ask a question?

4 Copy and complete the notes for paragraphs B and C of a different essay with your own 'yes' and 'no' reasons.

'Will computers ever think like human beings?'

B Yes, maybe they will
because ...

- 1 they are already very intelligent.
- 2 -
- 3 -

C No, they probably won't
because ...

- 1 they don't have feelings.
- 2 -
- 3 -