

UNIT 8

WRITING

Exercise 1. Match the words with the definitions

family	friends	friendship	grandparents	parents
relations/ relatives			relationship	

1. members of your family: _____
2. a situation in which two people are friends: _____
3. people you know well and like but who aren't usually members of your family: _____
4. the way two (or more) people feel and behave towards each other: _____
5. a group of people who are related to each other, e.g. a mother, a father and their children:

6. your mother and father: _____
7. the parents of your mother and father: _____

Exercise 2. Read the IELTS Writing Task 2 question.

It is sometimes said that old friendships are as valuable as family relationships. Do you agree or disagree?

Then read the information. Complete the conclusion. Use the words in the box.

You should always write a conclusion to your IELTS Writing Task 2 essay. The conclusion should be two or three sentences long and refer to the main points in your essay. It should be include your opinion.

You can use the essay question to help you check if you have referred to main points in your conclusion.

agree	disagree	family	old friendships	opinion	valuable
-------	----------	--------	-----------------	---------	----------

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I _____ that _____ are extremely _____ but I _____ that friends are as important as relatives. In my _____, nobody can replace your relations because _____ are the most valuable people in the world.

Exercise 3. Read the information. Then read the student's essay for the same Task 2 question. What information should the student include in the conclusion? Read the sentences and choose the correct answers.

In your IELTS Writing Task 2 conclusion you should not repeat examples from the rest of your essay. Remember, the conclusion should include the main point of the essay and your own opinion.

For some people, it is true that their friends are as important as their family. Personally, I need my friendships a lot but I do not think they can ever replace the connection with my relatives. In this essay, I am going to discuss both sides of the argument before coming to a conclusion.

On the one hand, I think that old friendships are very valuable. You can talk to friends who you have known for a long time about anything and they give you advice from experience. In addition, some people do not enjoy spending time with their relatives because they are too strict or argue a lot. Unfortunately, certain people do not have family because they died or moved away. For them, friendships are invaluable.

On the other hand, I disagree that friends are as important as relatives. In my opinion, nobody can be as valuable as family. Your parents work hard to help you and bring you up. Your grandparents did the same for your parents in the past. My family is particularly close because we live in the same street. Although I see my friends most days, I see my family every day. I eat with my grandmother at least twice a week and at weekends the whole family, all 25 of us, eats together.

1. I agree that old friendships are valuable

Yes No

2. Friends can often talk to you about anything.

Yes No

3. Some people's relations are too strict or argue a lot.

Yes No

4. Some people do not have family because they have died or moved away.

Yes No

5. I disagree that friends are important as relatives

Yes No

6. In my view, nobody can be as valuable as family.

Yes No

7. Your parents work hard to help you

Yes No

8. My family all live in the same street.

Yes No

9. I see my family every day.

Yes No

10. I eat with my grandmother twice a week.

Yes No

Exercise 4. Read the essay questions and the conclusions. Then choose the purpose of each sentence.

1 Some people think it is better to speak privately to friends while others tell personal things to their family only. Discuss the two different views and give your opinion.

In conclusion, sometimes people are more comfortable sharing personal details with friends because they are embarrassed to talk about their feelings with their parents or their family would not want to hear about problems. (A summary sentence of whether effects are good or bad/ A summary sentence of first point view)

On the other hand, other people speak to family because they feel they can trust them more than anyone else. (A summary sentence of alternative point of view/ A summary sentence of first point of view) Personally, I think that relatives are the best people to tell private information. (My opinion/ A summary of main effects)

2 The internet has changed the way friends communicate. What effects does the web have on friendships? Are these effects good or bad?

To conclude, communicating through email or websites means that friends can easily keep in contact but might not see each other as often (A summary of main effects/ A summary sentence of first point of view). The internet has, therefore, had both positive and negative effects on friendships (My opinion/ A summary sentence of whether effects are good or bad). At the end of the day, however, I believe that it offers more good points than bad points. (My opinion/ A summary sentence of main effects).

Exercise 5. Read the IELTS Writing Task 2 question

The internet has changed the way friends communicate. What effects does the internet have on friendships? Are these effects good or bad?

Read the information. Then read the student's essay. Highlight five unnecessary pieces of information in the conclusion.

In IELTS Writing Task 2, the conclusion is a summary of the essay, you should not add any new information.

It is certainly true that the invention of the internet has transformed communication within friendships. In my opinion, overall it has more good consequences than bad. In this essay, I am going to discuss the effects that the internet has had on the way friends communicate.

Before the internet was invented, friends used to speak on the phone or meet each other to talk. Sometimes they even used to write each other letters. Now they email, send messages on smart phones or communicate on online networking sites. On the one hand, this means that friends can easily keep in regular contact with each other. However, on the other hand, it means that they might not see each other as often.

The web has, therefore, had both a good effect and a bad effect on how friends communicate with each other. A positive example is that friends who have not seen for a long time can contact you online after several years, so you do not forget about each other. A negative example is that friends might spend a lot more time alone now because they do not arrange to meet each other often. Even though you get a lot of texts or emails, you can still be lonely.



To conclude, I use two laptops, so I know that communicating through email or websites means that friends can easily keep in contact but might not see each other as often. I email my friend in Shanghai every day. The internet has, therefore, had both positive and negative effects on friendships. Another negative effect is that people spend too much time looking at a computer screen. At the end of the day, however, I believed that it offers more good points than bad points. Another good point is that email is very quick. Another bad point is that phones or laptops can break.

Exercise 6. The first words of your conclusion should be *In conclusion* or a synonym of it. Choose the correct prepositions to complete the words and phrases that are synonyms of *In conclusion*.

1. <u>In/ To</u> conclude	5. <u>In/ To</u> finish
2. <u>In/ To</u> short	6. <u>In/ To</u> put it briefly
3. <u>In/ To</u> sum up	7. <u>In/ To</u> the end
4. <u>In/ To</u> summary	8. <u>In/ To</u> summarize

Exercise 7. Correct the mistakes. There is one mistake in each sentence.

1. To put it breifly, parents are more important to children than their granparents.
2. In sumary, the best thing about friendship is feeling emotionally supported.

3. To short, you are lucky if you have a lots of uncles and aunts.
4. To summ up, you have to work at friendships like you have to work at marriage.
5. In the end, nobody should argue with their family.

Exercise 8. WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Nowadays, in many families both parents need to have jobs. What are some of the problems associated with both parents working, and what are some of the possible solutions?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

