IELTS WRITING BOOSTER WORKBOOK

DAY 3

IELTS WRITING TASK 1

Prepositions & Articles

1 Read this paragraph and choose the correct prepositions.

As regards Robbie's Bakery, income started **1** *to / at* £55,000 in 2000 and remained stable **2** *at / to* this figure **3** *during / until* 2005. At this point, there was a sharp rise **4** *to / at* £70,000. Between 2007 and 2008, the figure went up **5** *to / by* around £30,000, **6** *to / from* £70,000 **7** *at / to* nearly £100,000. Finally, income grew gradually, and peaked **8** *at / to* £105,000 in 2010. If we look at Lovely Loaves, earnings fluctuated **9** *between / at* £80,000 and £90,000 in the first five years, and then there was a sharp fall **10** *to / at* £40,000 in 2008. Finally, the figure levelled off **11** *to / at* £40,000, and finished **12** *to / at* the same figure.

2 Check your answers to Exercise 1, then work with a partner to complete these rules for using prepositions.

1 With *started* and *finished*, use ...at...
Example: *Income started* ...at... *£55,000.*

2 With increases or decreases, use .....
Example: *There was a sharp rise* ..... *£70,000.*

3 With *remained stable* and *levelled off*, use .....

4 With *peaked*, use .....

5 To describe how much something increases or decreases, use .....
Example: *The figure went up* ..... *around £30,000.*

6 To describe the range of fluctuation, use .....
Example: *Earnings fluctuated* ..... *£80,000 and £90,000.*

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Linking phrases

The graph shows information about the amount of money which was earned by three bakeries in London, over a ten-year period between 2000 and 2010.

Overall, what stands out from the graph is that there were considerable upward trends in the income of both Bernie's Buns and Robbie's Bakery, while the earnings of Lovely Loaves saw a considerable fall over the period in question. Another interesting point is that Lovely Loaves was the most popular bakery in 2000, but in 2010, Robbie's Bakery earned more money than the others.

Looking at the details, as regards Bernie's Buns, income started at £20,000 in 2000, then there was a fluctuation over the next three years, at which point it levelled off at just under £40,000 until 2006. Then the figure went up significantly, finishing at around £65,000 in 2010. If we look at Robbie's Bakery, the trend was similar. Having remained stable at approximately £55,000 in the first half of the decade, income then rose sharply, reaching nearly £100,000 in 2008. There was then a gradual rise to around £105,000 in 2010.

By contrast, the income of Lovely Loaves went in the opposite direction. Takings fluctuated around £90,000 until 2004. After that, despite falling sharply to just over £40,000 in 2008, the figure then levelled off in the last two years.

(217 words)

2 Rewrite these sentences from the model answer in another way.

1 Income then rose sharply. There ...

2 There was then a gradual rise to around £105,000. The figure ...

3 Rewrite these sentences using the linking phrases in brackets.

1 The income of Robbie's Bakery began at just under £60,000. (*with respect to*)

2 The amount of money which was earned by Bernie's Buns in 2000 was £20,000. (*if we look at*)

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3 The earnings of Robbie's Bakery remained stable during the first five years of the graph. (*as for*)

4 Income for Lovely Loaves fluctuated considerably between 2000 and 2005. (*regarding*)

Joining two changes together

In paragraphs 3 and 4, you need to join changes together into longer sentences.
Income remained stable between 2000 and 2004, ***and then*** *there was a steady rise in the next two years.*
There are lots of ways you can join two ideas together in an interesting way.

1 Read this paragraph and underline all the linking words and phrases which mean *and then*.

Income of Bernie's Buns started at £20,000 in 2000, and after that there was a slight rise to £23,000 in 2001. Following this, the figure fell slightly to £21,000 in 2002, after which income rose sharply in 2003. At this point, the number levelled off until 2005. Next, there was a slight dip in 2006, but this was followed by a sharp increase to £60,000 in 2008. Subsequently, income went up gradually in the last two years.

2 Join these changes together using the linking phrase in brackets. Make any other necessary changes.

1 Income began at just over £80,000. Income went up slightly to £95,000 in 2001. (*and then*)
Income began at just over £80,000, and then it went up slightly to £95,000 in 2001.

2 There was a steady fall to £80,000. Income recovered to £90,000 in 2004. (*after which*)

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3 Earnings dropped sharply to just over £60,000. There was a slight dip. (*At this point*)

4 There was a slight rise to just under £60,000. The figure went down considerably. (*Subsequently*)

5 Income fell significantly to £40,000. The number levelled off. (*Next*)

Despite **... and** ***Having*** **...**

You can also use these two structures to join together two changes. Make sure you study how to use them carefully. Don't forget: if you use the *Having* structure, you need the past participle (e.g. *Having fallen* ...).

3 Choose the correct form of each verb. Check the model answer if you need to.

1 Despite *falling / fell* sharply to just above £40,000, the figure then rose in 2010.

2 Having *remained / remaining* stable at £55,000, income then rose sharply in 2008.

4 Rewrite these sentences using the words in brackets.

1 There was a steady decline to £80,000, and then income recovered to £90,000 in 2004. (*Despite ...*)

2 Earnings dropped sharply to just over £60,000, but then rose slightly. (*Having ...*)

5 Rewrite these sentences using the words in brackets.

1 There was a steady decline to £80,000, and then income recovered to £90,000 in 2004. (*Despite ...*)

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2 Earnings dropped sharply to just over £60,000, but then rose slightly. (*Having ...*)

Commenting on the data

To take your Task 1 essay to the next level, try to comment on the data, rather than just give a list of numbers. Add one or two comments to show that you understand and can interpret the graph. Here are some ways you can do this.

- Compare the different parts of the graph, using a relative clause:
  The income of Lovely Loaves fell significantly to around £40,000 in 2008, ***which meant that it earned far less than the other bakeries.***
- Comment on the peak:
  There was a considerable rise in the takings of Robbie's Bakery in the last two years to £105,000, ***this figure being the peak level of income during the whole period.***
- Add an extra verb to give emphasis:
  The income of Robbie's Bakery rose sharply in 2008, ***rocketing to just under £100,000.***
- Add a superlative:
  Lovely Loaves earned just over £80,000 in 2000. This meant that it had ***the highest income*** *of the three bakeries in that year.*
- Group data into a period of time:
  There was a significant fluctuation in the income of Lovely Loaves ***in the first half of the decade.***

1 Use the ideas above to complete these comments on the graph on page 79.

1 The earnings of Bernie's Buns were £20,000 in 2000, ...which was the lowest income of the three bakeries...

2 The income of Lovely Loaves fell sharply in 2005, p..... to just over £60,000.

3 The income of Robbie's Bakery remained stable **in the first** ..... **of the period.**

4 There was a sharp rise in the income of Robbie's Bakery between 2005 and 2008, **which meant that it earned far** ..... **than the other bakeries.**

5 Lovely Loaves' income fell considerably to £40,000 in 2008. **This meant that it had the** ..... **income of the three bakeries.**

2 Complete the comments in this paragraph with one word in each gap.

If we look at Bernie's Buns, it started at £20,000 in 2000, which was the 1 ..... income of the three bakeries at this point. After that, it started to rise and went up sharply to around £60,000 in 2008, which meant that it earned 2 ..... money than Lovely Loaves. Finally, the earnings of Bernie's Buns rose gradually, 3 ..... at around £65,000 in 2010.

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Comparative structures

Another important way to write about comparatives is to use the structure '*x is not as* + adjective + *as y*'.
Coffee in France is ***not as expensive as*** *in the UK.*
Becoming confident using this structure will make your writing more flexible.

1 Use the structure above to rewrite this sentence.

The Fratton Road library was less busy than the one in Commercial Road in March.

2 Use the same structure to write sentences about these pairs of information.

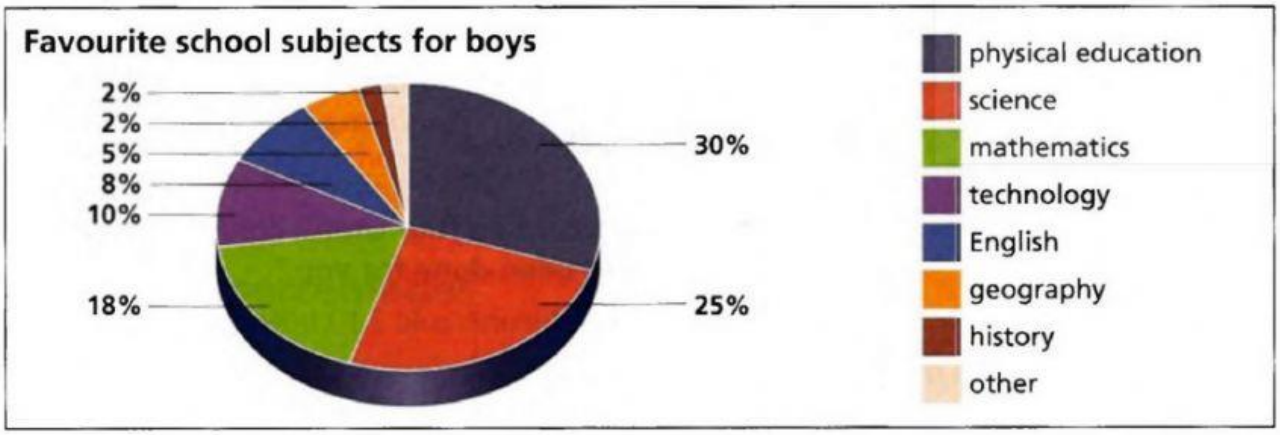
1 hamburgers £2 / french fries £1.90

2 Majorca 30 degrees / Castellón 35 degrees

3 southern trains 125 mph / northern trains 100 mph

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3 Look at this chart and write three sentences about the data using the same structure. Compare your sentences with a partner.



4 Rewrite the comparative sentences below using *not as* + adjective (from the box) + *as*.

expensive	high	popular	successful

1 Monster Hits Records sold 230,000 CDs in 1990, whereas Crooners plc sold 225,000.
2 A hundred couples chose the name *James* in 2000, while just 20 couples opted for the name *Peter*.
3 It costs an average of £95 to spend a night in a hotel in Paris, as opposed to over £150 in Zurich.
4 The temperature in Rawai Island was much lower than in Phuket, at 15 degrees and 25 degrees respectively.

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5 Look at these phrases and decide whether they express a big difference or a small one.

1 X is/was **nowhere near as** expensive as Y. big difference
2 X is/was **not quite as** expensive as Y.
3 X is/was **not nearly as** expensive as Y.
4 X is/was **almost as** expensive as Y.

6 Rewrite the sentences in Exercise 4 using one of the four phrases from Exercise 5 to express whether there is a small or large difference.

Example: Crooners plc was not quite as successful as Monster Hits Records in 1990, selling 225,000 CDs compared to 230,000.

1 Monster Hits Records sold 230,000 CDs in 1990, whereas Crooners plc sold 225,000.

2 A hundred couples chose the name *James* in 2000, while just 20 couples opted for the name *Peter*.

3 It costs an average of £95 to spend a night in a hotel in Paris, as opposed to over £150 in Zurich.

4 The temperature in Rawai Island was much lower than in Phuket, at 15 degrees and 25 degrees respectively.

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