

Writing – Article



PART 2

COMPOSITION DEVELOPMENT

A. Read this composition question and do the exercises that follow.

A national student magazine has asked you to write an article on how young people might choose a career. Write a short **article** for the magazine.

BRAINSTORMING

B. Answer the following questions. Discuss your answers with the class.

1. Which of these people might read your article?
   - **a.** Adults who want to change their job.
   - **b.** Young people in other parts of your country.
   - **c.** Students around the world.
2. What would they expect from your article?
   - **a.** Advice about their future that interests them.
   - **b.** Detailed descriptions of certain jobs.
   - **c.** An explanation of why a good job is important.
3. Are your readers ...
   - **a.** much younger than you?
   - **b.** the same age as you?
   - **c.** much older than you?
4. Are these statements True or False?
   - **a.** You should use a formal style to show how much you know. _____
   - **b.** You could start with a question to interest your readers. _____
   - **c.** It would be appropriate to use contractions (isn't, don't, etc). _____
   - **d.** Your style should be conversational and friendly. _____
   - **e.** You have to tell them to be good students and work hard. _____
5. Which of these might be a good title for this article?
   - **a.** Becoming a successful professional.
   - **b.** Combining a career with a busy home life.
   - **c.** What do you want to be when you grow up?
   - **d.** The dangers of being too ambitious.

MATCH

C. Match the paragraph contents on the right with each paragraph 1-4.

1.	A. Suggest some other things you might think about.
2.	B. Conclude and wish your readers good luck.
3.	C. Ask an interesting question and introduce the subject.
4.	D. Suggest first steps you might take in choosing a career.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

STARTING YOUR ARTICLE

D. Circle two sentences you might use to begin your article.

1. I have been requested to write an article by this magazine and here it is.
2. Are you still wondering exactly what you're going to do with your life?
3. I am writing to inform you about the career options open to you.
4. It can be pretty scary taking decisions that affect the rest of your life.

ENDING YOUR ARTICLE

E. Circle two sentences you might use to end your article.

1. In conclusion, these are the things I had to say on the subject.
2. I am looking forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.
3. I hope these suggestions have given you something to think about.
4. So, good luck in your future career, whatever you decide.

PLAN YOUR PARAGRAPHS

F. Complete the following paragraph plan, making notes on what you are going to include in each paragraph.

ARTICLE PLAN	
TITLE	
PARAGRAPH 1	
PARAGRAPH 2	
PARAGRAPH 3	
PARAGRAPH 4	

G. Read these sentences and then use the words in bold to complete the sentences below.

- I think **job satisfaction** is far more important than earning a lot of money.
- Dave's dad has been **unemployed** for over a year and can't find a job.
- Sally was **fired/sacked** for surfing the internet too much at work.
- I'd like to have my own business and be my own **boss**.
- I get on very well with my **colleagues** in the office.
- Some workers are paid more because of dangerous **working conditions**.
- The Minister was forced to **resign** when the truth came out.
- It can be very difficult not having a job and trying to live on **unemployment benefit/the dole**.
- The company is looking for **trainees** to start immediately.
- My **contract** says that I should get four weeks paid holiday a year.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. When sales went down dramatically, the manager decided to _____.
2. The new _____ are learning all about the factory.
3. I get a lot of _____ from my work as a nurse.
4. Tom was constantly late and in the end he was _____.
5. I'd be careful if I were you because the _____ is in a bad mood.
6. I don't think _____ is enough to live on when you have children.
7. It can be hard to fill your time when you are _____.
8. Make sure you read the _____ before you sign it.
9. The _____ far a miner can be very dirty and unpleasant.
10. Some of my _____ bought me a present when I left the office.

H. Here are some extracts from different pieces of writing. Unfortunately, the writers haven't been very successful with their style. Rewrite the extracts in your notebook in a more appropriate style.

From a letter to a friend
I would like to inform you that my parents have finally given me permission to attend the recording of your appearance on 'Who wants to be a Teenage Millionaire'. I look forward to it very much. I would be very grateful if you could let me know what time I should arrive at the studio.

From a report
So, I did what you told me and looked at lots of different mags for teenagers -most of them are rubbish. They're mainly about pop and looking cool. I guess they think teenagers aren't into anything more serious. Idiots! Anyway, here's what I found out.

From an article for a young people's magazine
The majority of young people today use the internet on a regular basis. However, few of them consider creating their own website. This is unfortunate. In my opinion, they need to realise that website creation is relatively straightforward. Moreover, it is both enjoyable and constructive.

I. Read your partner's writing: Look at how your partner has rewritten the extracts above. Do you think they have a more appropriate style now? Can you make any suggestions to improve them further?

J. Read this composition question and do the exercises that follow.

You have seen this announcement in an international student magazine:

Does TV just entertain us, or is it informative too?

We are looking for articles on this subject. Write and tell us what you think.
Write your **article**.

WHAT AM I WRITING?

K. Write T for True and F for False next to these statements.

1. I should start by writing 'Dear Sir/Madam,'. _____
2. My article should be very formal. _____
3. My article should sound academic. _____
4. Most of the readers will be professors and editors. _____
5. I should try to interest the readers. _____
6. I can write in a conversational style. _____
7. I can ask the readers rhetorical questions. _____
8. I can use contractions if I wish. _____
9. I should use very simple and informal vocabulary. _____
10. I should write about four paragraphs. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

BRAINSTORMING

L. Make notes to answer these questions. Then discuss your answers with the class.

1. What kind of TV programmes entertain? _____
2. How do they entertain people? _____ Give an example: _____
3. What kind of TV programmes are informative?
4. What do they inform us about? _____
5. Give an example: _____
6. Can you think of any programmes that are informative and entertaining at the same time?
7. What's your opinion? Is most TV entertaining? _____ Is most TV informative? _____ Can it be both at the same time? _____

THINK ABOUT STYLE

M. Which of these might be a good beginning for your article? Circle the letters of the beginnings you think are appropriate.

a. TV's really cool, right? Yeah, course it is.
b. Have you ever wondered why television is so popular?
c. I strongly believe that students should not have time to watch television.
d. Television has both advantages and disadvantages.
e. What I like most about television is the choice of programmes available.

THINK ABOUT PARAGRAPHING

N. Your article will probably have four paragraphs. Match a paragraph purpose on the right with each paragraph 1-4.

1.	a. Explore the issue of TV as entertainment
2.	b. Introduce the topic, get the reader interested
3.	c. Bring your ideas together, express your general opinion
4.	d. Explore the issue of TV as informative

PLAN YOUR PARAGRAPHS

O. Complete the following paragraph plan, making notes on what you are going to include in each paragraph.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

P. Read these sentences and then use the words in bold to complete the sentences below.

- I don't like **tabloid** newspapers because they're full of gossip and scandal. I prefer more serious papers.
- I've taken out a monthly **subscription** to Teenpop magazine. They send it to me every month through the post.
- There was a very interesting **documentary** on last night about the South American rainforests.
- I love Friends. It's so funny! It's the best **sitcom/situation comedy** on TV.
- And you can watch the next **episode** of Friends at the same time tomorrow night.
- I've seen this episode before. It must be a **repeat**.
- What's the **address** of your website? I'd love to check it out.
- She writes a weekly **column** for the local newspaper. She's always giving her opinion about something or other.
- There are two main kinds of book: hardbacks and **paperbacks**.
- I don't have very good **reception** where I live, so I can't pick up all the TV channels very clearly.

1. Have you seen that new _____ with Tony Parker? It's set in a shoe shop and it's hilarious!
2. The _____ is www.my-autographs.gr.
3. I don't know why you get that _____ every day. There's never any news in it.
4. I mustn't forget to set the video to record the next _____ of Melrose Place.
5. I'll take a couple of _____ to read by the pool.
6. The _____ is terrible. Are you sure you've tuned in the TV properly?
7. There's a _____ about space travel on BBC1, and a black and white movie on BBC2.
8. I think I'll cancel my _____ to Forthlink; other companies are offering much cheaper internet connection packages these days.
9. So what if it's a _____ ! Don't you want to see it again?
10. I always read Martin Flannigan's _____ in The Post. He's very clever.

EXAM TIP

- DON'T WASTE TIME COUNTING THE NUMBER OF WORDS YOU HAVE WRITTEN. LOOK AT ONE OF YOUR COMPOSITIONS TO SEE HOW MANY WORDS YOU WRITE ON A LINE. FOR MOST PEOPLE, IT IS ABOUT SEVEN OR EIGHT. THIS MEANS YOUR COMPOSITIONS SHOULD BE ABOUT TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE LINES LONG, OR JUST LESS THAN ONE PAGE OF AN EXERCISE BOOK.

EXAM TASK

Q. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

Your school magazine is running a series of articles under the title 'My dream job'.

Write an article to appear in the series describing your ideal job.

R. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

A local newspaper has invited readers to write short articles about how they imagine the world of work will change over the next decade. The best articles will be published in the newspaper.

Write your **article.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

S. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You have decided to write an article about your favourite computer game for a magazine for young people called *Funtime*. Write the article, describing the game and explaining why you would recommend it to other readers.

Write your **article.**

T. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You have read this in the website of a student magazine.

WRITE FOR US

How would you like to see your own article on 'Staying Fit' on our website? Get your foot on the ladder to literary fame!

Tell us:
What kind of exercise you'd recommend for a busy student.
How students could eat a healthy diet on a small budget.
Any other advice?

Write your **article.**

U. Study the exam question and write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.

You recently saw this announcement on a teenage website.

WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR US!

Do you know how people your age in your country feel about the future? What opportunities are there for young people to get jobs or continue their studies after secondary school?

The best articles will be published on the website next month.

Write your **article.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS