IELTS

TOPIC IDEAS EBOOK 2023

(Part 2)

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(Part 2)

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Introduction

The debate over whether the government should support artists like painters, musicians, and poets is a complex and multifaceted issue. This article will delve into the topic, discussing the pros and cons, providing relevant vocabulary and examples, and offering a model essay and speaking responses.

Grammar Point Covered: Inversion

Inversion is a grammatical construction where the verb comes before the subject. It is often used to add emphasis or to make a sentence more formal. Here are five examples related to our topic:

1. **Never before** has the government's role in supporting artists been so controversial.
2. **Only when** we recognise the importance of art can we justify government funding.
3. **So vital** is the role of artists that many argue for increased government support.
4. **Little did** the government realise the impact of cutting funding for the arts.
5. **Under no circumstances** should the government abandon its support for artists.

Pros and Cons Regarding Government Supporting Artists

Pros	Cons
Artists contribute to the cultural richness of a country.	Government funding for the arts can lead to censorship or control over artistic content.
Government support can help artists to pursue their work without financial stress.	Public money might be better spent on essential services like healthcare or education.
Public funding for the arts can lead to greater accessibility for all citizens.	Government support could lead to an over-reliance on public funding among artists.
Government support can help to preserve traditional art forms.	Artistic merit may become secondary to the ability to secure funding.
Art can promote critical thinking and empathy, benefiting society as a whole.	Government support may favour established artists over emerging talent.
Government funding can encourage innovation and creativity in the arts.	Public funding may lead to a lack of competition in the arts.

Pros	Cons
• Support for artists can enhance a country's international reputation.	• Government support could discourage private sponsorship and patronage.
• Government funding can help to ensure a diverse range of artistic voices are heard.	• Decisions about which artists to fund could become politicised.
• Art can be a form of soft power, promoting a country's values and culture abroad.	• Government funding may not be distributed equitably across different art forms.
• Support for the arts can contribute to a balanced and well-rounded society.	• Support for artists may be seen as elitist or out of touch with public opinion.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Cultural richness
- Financial stress
- Public funding
- Preserve traditional art
- Promote critical thinking
- Enhance international reputation
- Diverse range of voices
- Soft power
- Balanced society
- Artistic merit

Model Sentences Using the Topic Phrases and Inversion

Only by recognising the **cultural richness** artists bring can we understand the need for government support.

So severe can the **financial stress** on artists be that government support becomes essential.

Never before has **public funding** for the arts been so hotly debated.

Only when we **preserve traditional art** can we maintain our cultural heritage.

So important is the role of art in **promoting critical thinking** that it should be publicly funded.

Little do we realise how much our artists **enhance our international reputation**.

Only by supporting a **diverse range of voices** can we have a vibrant arts scene.

Never should we underestimate the **soft power** of our artists abroad.

So vital is the role of art in creating a **balanced society** that government support is justified.

Under no circumstances should **artistic merit** be compromised for the sake of funding.

Model Essay About Government Supporting Artists

Question: *Some people think the government should support artists like painters, musicians, and poets, while others believe this wastes money. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

The role of the government in financially supporting artists is a contentious issue. While some argue that it is a waste of public funds, others contend that it is essential for the preservation of a country's cultural richness.

Supporters of government funding for artists argue that it is crucial for the promotion of cultural diversity and creativity. They believe that without such support, many artists would face insurmountable financial stress, potentially leading to a decline in the quality and quantity of artistic output. Furthermore, they argue that public funding can help to preserve traditional art forms that might otherwise disappear. So important is the role of art in promoting critical thinking and empathy that many believe it should be publicly funded.

On the other hand, critics of government support for artists argue that it is an inappropriate use of public funds. They contend that the government has more pressing responsibilities, such as healthcare and education, and that the arts should be self-sustaining. They also worry that government funding could lead to censorship or control over artistic content. Under no circumstances, they argue, should artistic merit be compromised for the sake of funding.

In conclusion, while there are valid arguments on both sides, I believe that the government has a role to play in supporting artists. The cultural richness that artists bring to society is invaluable and justifies the allocation of public funds. However, it is crucial that this support is provided in a way that respects artistic freedom and integrity.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1. **Why do some people believe that the government should support artists?**

Well, to be honest, I think people who advocate for government support for artists often see the cultural value that artists bring. They believe that artists contribute to the cultural richness of a society and that without financial support, many artists would struggle to continue their work. They also argue that public funding can help to preserve traditional art forms and promote critical thinking.

2. **Should the government fund all types of art, or should they select specific forms to support?**

That's a tough question. I'm not an expert on this topic, but I guess you could say that ideally, the government should support a diverse range of voices in the arts. However, in reality, it might be necessary to prioritise certain forms of art, perhaps those that are at risk of disappearing or those that have a particularly significant cultural value.

3. **How can government support impact the work of an artist?**

As far as I know, government support can have a significant impact on an artist's work. It can relieve the financial stress that many artists face, allowing them to focus more on their creative process. However, it's not all roses. There's also a risk that government support could lead to censorship or control over artistic content, which could limit an artist's freedom of expression.

4. **How has the role of government in supporting artists changed over time?**

I've never really thought about it before, but I guess you could say that the role of government in supporting artists has become more prominent over time. In the past, artists were often supported by patrons, but in the modern era, government funding has become a significant source of support for many artists. However, this varies greatly from country to country and is often a subject of debate.

5. **Is government support for artists common in your country?**

Well, in my country, government support for artists is quite common. The government recognises the importance of cultural richness and the role that artists play in contributing to this. However, the level of support varies depending on the type of art and the artist's reputation. It's not a perfect system, but it does provide some support for our artists.

Further Reading

1. BBC: Impact of government funding on the arts
2. Wikipedia: Art funding
3. UK Government: Arts Council England funding 2018 to 2022
4. National Endowment for the Arts (US)
5. ResearchGate: Government Support of Artists: The Evolution of Public Policy in France, Germany, and the United States

Technology Developments:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and
Sample Answers

Introduction

The impact of earlier technology developments on the lives of ordinary people is a topic of considerable debate. This article will explore the argument that these earlier developments brought more benefits than recent ones, providing relevant vocabulary, grammar points, and sample answers for both writing and speaking tasks.

Grammar Point Covered: Conditional

Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – an 'if' clause and a main clause – that are closely related. Conditional sentences are often used to express possibilities and hypothetical situations. Here are five examples related to our topic:

1. **If** earlier technology developments hadn't occurred, we wouldn't have the foundation for recent advancements.
2. **If** we continue to innovate at the current pace, future generations may view our era as a pivotal point in technological development.
3. Without the invention of the Internet, **we would not have** the global connectivity we enjoy today.
4. **If** the industrial revolution hadn't happened, our lives **would be** drastically different.
5. **Unless** we continue to value and learn from earlier technological developments, we **may not** fully appreciate their impact.

Pros and Cons Regarding Earlier Technology Developments

Pros	Cons
• Earlier developments laid the foundation for modern technology. • Many life-changing inventions, such as electricity and the telephone, came from earlier periods. • Earlier developments often brought radical change, transforming society and lifestyles. • Technologies like the printing press democratized knowledge, changing the course of history.	• Earlier developments often had negative environmental impacts, such as pollution from industrialisation. • Some argue that recent developments, like the Internet, have had a more transformative impact on daily life. • Earlier technologies may have been less accessible to the general public compared to recent ones.

Pros	Cons
• Earlier developments like the steam engine sparked industrial revolutions, leading to significant economic growth.	• Some earlier developments, like nuclear technology, have also been used for destructive purposes. • Recent developments in areas like medicine and communication have brought immediate benefits to people's lives.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Foundation for modern technology
- Life-changing inventions
- Radical change
- Democratised knowledge
- Industrial revolution
- Negative environmental impacts
- Transformative impact
- General public
- Destructive purposes
- Immediate benefits

Model Sentences Using the Topic Phrases and Conditionals

If we didn't have the **foundation for modern technology** laid by earlier developments, our current technological landscape **would be** vastly different.

Without the **life-changing inventions** of the past, we **wouldn't have** many of the conveniences we enjoy today.

If the **radical changes** brought about by earlier technological developments hadn't occurred, our society **would be** unrecognisable.

Unless we had technologies like the printing press that **democratised knowledge**, the spread of information **would have been** much slower.

If the **industrial revolution** hadn't happened, our economic progress **would have been** significantly slower.

Model Essay About Earlier Technology Developments

Question: *Earlier technology developments brought more benefits and changed the lives of ordinary people more than recent developments ever will. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

The assertion that earlier technological developments have had a more significant impact on the lives of ordinary people than recent ones is a compelling one. This essay will explore both sides of the argument, drawing on historical and contemporary examples.

Proponents of the view that earlier developments were more beneficial often point to the foundational role these technologies played. For instance, the invention of electricity, a life-changing invention, has had a transformative impact on virtually every aspect of daily life, from domestic chores to industrial production. Similarly, the industrial revolution, sparked by the development of the steam engine, led to radical changes in society and the economy. If these developments hadn't occurred, our current technological landscape would be vastly different.

On the other hand, it can be argued that recent technological developments have brought immediate benefits to people's lives. The advent of the Internet, for example, has democratized knowledge and made information accessible to the general public on an unprecedented scale. Furthermore, advancements in medical technology have led to treatments and cures for diseases that were once considered untreatable. Without these recent developments, many of the conveniences and benefits we enjoy today would not exist.

In conclusion, while earlier technological developments laid the foundation for modern society and brought about radical changes, recent developments have also had a significant and immediate impact on people's lives. Therefore, it is not entirely accurate to say that earlier developments were more beneficial than recent ones; both have played crucial roles in shaping our world.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1.   Why do some people believe that earlier technology developments brought more benefits?

Well, to be honest, I think people who advocate for the benefits of earlier technology developments often see the foundational role these technologies played. They believe that inventions like electricity and the telephone have had a transformative impact on virtually every aspect of daily life, from domestic chores to industrial production. They also argue that the industrial revolution, sparked by the development of the steam engine, led to radical changes in society and the economy.

2.   Should we place more value on earlier technology developments or recent ones?

That's a tough question. I'm not an expert on this topic, but I guess you could say that ideally, we should value both earlier and recent technology developments. Each has played a crucial role in shaping our world, and each has its unique benefits. Earlier developments laid the foundation for modern society, while recent developments have brought immediate benefits to people's lives.

3.   How have earlier technology developments changed the lives of ordinary people?

As far as I know, earlier technology developments have had a significant impact on the lives of ordinary people. They have transformed the way we live, work, and communicate. For instance, the invention of electricity has made our lives more convenient, while the telephone has revolutionized communication. Furthermore, the industrial revolution has led to significant economic growth and societal change.

4.   How do you think technology developments will change our lives in the future?

I've never really thought about it before, but I guess you could say that future technology developments will continue to have a significant impact on our lives. They will likely continue to bring immediate benefits, such as advancements in medical technology and information accessibility. However, they may also bring new challenges, such as issues related to privacy and cybersecurity.

5.   Is the impact of earlier technology developments evident in your country?

Well, in my country, the impact of earlier technology developments is quite evident. For instance, the infrastructure of our cities and the way we live and work are largely shaped by developments like electricity and the industrial revolution. These developments have laid the foundation for our modern society and continue to influence our lives today.

Further Reading

1. [BBC: How technology has transformed the world](#)
2. [Wikipedia: History of technology](#)
3. [UK Government: Impact of AI and automation](#)
4. [MIT Technology Review](#)
5. [ResearchGate: Technological Developments and the Need for Technical Standards](#)

Countries with Long Average Working Hours:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and Sample Answers

Introduction

The correlation between long average working hours and economic success of countries is a topic of considerable debate. This article will explore the argument that while such countries may be economically successful, this often has some negative social consequences, providing relevant vocabulary, grammar points, and sample answers for both writing and speaking tasks.

Grammar Point Covered: Complex Clauses in Sentences

Complex sentences are sentences that contain one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. They are used to show a deeper relationship between ideas than can be conveyed through simple sentences. Here are five examples related to our topic:

1. **Although** countries with long working hours are often economically successful, this can lead to social issues such as stress and lack of leisure time.
2. Workers in these countries, **who often spend long hours at their jobs**, may suffer from burnout.
3. **While** these countries may boast high GDP figures, the quality of life for workers may be compromised.
4. **As** workers spend more time at work, they have less time for social activities and relaxation.
5. **If** a country prioritises economic success over the wellbeing of its workers, social problems are likely to arise.

Pros and Cons Regarding Long Average Working Hours

Pros	Cons
• Long working hours can lead to increased productivity and economic growth.	• Long working hours can lead to burnout and stress among workers.
• They can result in higher incomes for workers, improving their standard of living.	• They can negatively impact work-life balance.
• They can help countries compete in the global market.	• They can lead to health issues due to lack of rest and leisure time.

Pros	Cons
• They can lead to faster career progression for dedicated workers. • They can promote a culture of hard work and dedication.	• They can result in decreased productivity in the long run. • They can contribute to social issues, such as neglect of family and personal relationships.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Economic growth
- Standard of living
- Global market
- Career progression
- Culture of hard work
- Work-life balance
- Health issues
- Decreased productivity
- Social issues
- Neglect of personal relationships

Model Sentences Using the Topic Phrases and Complex Clauses

Although long working hours can lead to **economic growth**, they can also result in **health issues** due to lack of rest.

Workers, **who often prioritise career progression**, may neglect their personal relationships due to long working hours.

While a culture of hard work can boost a country's standing in the global market, it can also lead to decreased productivity in the long run.

If workers do not maintain a healthy work-life balance, social issues are likely to arise.

As workers spend more time at work, their standard of living may not necessarily improve.

Model Essay About Long Average Working Hours

Question: *Although countries with long average working hours are economically successful, this often has some negative social consequences. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

The assertion that countries with long average working hours are economically successful but face negative social consequences is a compelling one. This essay will explore both sides of the argument, drawing on examples from various countries.

Proponents of long working hours often point to the economic growth and improved standard of living that can result from such a practice. For instance, countries like Japan and South Korea, known for their long working hours, are also known for their strong economies. These countries have managed to compete effectively in the global market, and their citizens often enjoy high incomes. However, this economic success often comes at a cost.

On the other hand, the negative social consequences of long working hours cannot be overlooked. Workers often suffer from burnout and stress, which can lead to health issues and decreased productivity in the long run. Furthermore, long working hours can negatively impact work-life balance, leading to social issues such as neglect of family and personal relationships. In extreme cases, a culture of overwork can even lead to tragedies such as karoshi, or death from overwork, a phenomenon that has been observed in Japan.

In conclusion, while countries with long average working hours may be economically successful, this often comes at a significant social cost. Therefore, it is crucial for these countries to find a balance between economic growth and the wellbeing of their workers.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1.   Why do some countries have long average working hours?

Well, to be honest, some countries have long average working hours because they believe it leads to economic growth and improved standard of living. They see it as a way to compete effectively in the global market and to provide their citizens with high incomes. However, this often comes at a cost to the workers' health and personal lives.

2.   Should countries strive to reduce average working hours?

That's a tough question. I'm not an expert on this topic, but I guess you could say that ideally, countries should strive to find a balance between work and leisure. While long working hours can lead to economic growth, they can also lead to health issues and social problems. Therefore, it's important to ensure that workers have enough time for rest and relaxation.

3.   How do long average working hours impact the lives of ordinary people?

As far as I know, long average working hours can have a significant impact on the lives of ordinary people. They can lead to stress and burnout, and can negatively impact work-life balance. This can result in health issues and social problems, such as neglect of family and personal relationships. Therefore, it's important for workers to have enough time for rest and relaxation.

4.   How have working hours changed over time in your country?

I've never really thought about it before, but I guess you could say that in my country, working hours have generally decreased over time. This is largely due to improvements in technology and productivity, as well as increased awareness of the importance of work-life balance. However, there are still some industries where long working hours are common.

5.   Is the impact of long average working hours evident in your country?

Well, in my country, the impact of long average working hours is quite evident. For instance, in industries where long working hours are common, workers often suffer from stress and burnout. There are also social issues, such as neglect of family and personal relationships. Therefore, there is a growing movement to reduce working hours and improve work-life balance.

Further Reading

1. BBC: The countries working too many hours
2. Wikipedia: Working time
3. UK Government: Maximum weekly working hours
4. International Labour Organization: Working time
5. ResearchGate: Working time, society, and family life

Traveling to Other Countries for a Significant Period of Time Either to Find a Job or Study. Advantages and Disadvantages:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and
Sample Answers

Introduction

Traveling to other countries for a significant period of time either to find a job or study has become increasingly common in today's globalised world. This article will explore the advantages and disadvantages of this trend, provide relevant vocabulary and grammar points, and offer model answers for IELTS writing and speaking tasks.

Grammar Point Covered: Conditional

The grammar point covered in this article is the use of gerunds to start sentences. A gerund is a verb form that ends in -ing and functions as a noun. Starting sentences with gerunds can make your writing more varied and engaging. Here are five example sentences about the topic that use gerunds:

1. **Studying** abroad can provide students with unique educational experiences.
2. **Living** in a foreign country can be challenging but rewarding.
3. **Working** overseas can enhance one's career prospects.
4. **Adapting** to a new culture can be difficult at first.
5. **Learning** a new language is often a necessity when living abroad.

Pros and Cons Regarding Topic

Here are some advantages and disadvantages of traveling to other countries for a significant period of time either to find a job or study:

Pros	Cons
• Exposure to different cultures and perspectives.	• Culture shock and homesickness.

Pros	Cons
• Enhanced language skills.	• Language barriers.
• Increased independence and self-reliance.	• Difficulty in finding suitable accommodation and employment.
• Better career opportunities.	• Strain on personal relationships due to distance.
• Expanded personal and professional network.	• Adjustment to different educational or work systems.
• Improved problem-solving and adaptability skills.	• Financial challenges.
• Greater understanding and appreciation of one's own culture.	• Health issues due to change in climate or diet.
• Opportunity to study or work in prestigious institutions.	• Feeling of isolation or alienation.
• Personal growth and development.	• Difficulty in accessing familiar support systems.
• Exciting travel and exploration opportunities.	• Legal issues related to visas and work permits.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Cultural exchange
- Language proficiency
- Work permit
- Overseas employment
- International student
- Career advancement
- Global perspective
- Cross-cultural understanding
- Study abroad program
- Immigration laws

Model Sentences Using the Topic Phrases and Grammar Point

Here are some sample sentences using the collocations from earlier, and all sentences are examples of using gerunds to start sentences:

Participating in a **cultural exchange** can broaden one's horizons.

Improving one's **language proficiency** is often a key benefit of living abroad.

Securing a **work permit** can be a challenging aspect of working in a foreign country.

Seeking overseas employment can be a way to advance one's career.

Being an **international student** can be both exciting and daunting.

Pursuing career advancement is a common reason for working abroad.

Gaining a **global perspective** is a valuable aspect of living and working in a foreign country.

Developing cross-cultural understanding can enhance personal and professional relationships.

Enrolling in a **study abroad program** can provide unique educational opportunities.

Navigating immigration laws can be a complex part of living abroad.

Model Essay About the Topic

Question: *These days more and more people are going to other countries for a significant period of time either to find a job or study. There are clearly many benefits to doing this, but people who live abroad can also face some difficulties. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living and working in a foreign country. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.*

Travelling to other countries for a significant period of time, either to find a job or study, has become a common trend in the modern world. While this trend has its advantages, such as **career advancement** and **cultural exchange**, it also comes with its own set of challenges.

Living and working in a foreign country can provide numerous benefits. **Improving language proficiency** is one of the most significant advantages, as it not only aids in communication but also enhances one's cognitive abilities. Furthermore, **gaining** a **global perspective** and **cross-cultural understanding** can foster tolerance and empathy towards different cultures and ways of life. **Participating** in a **study abroad program** or seeking **overseas employment** can also lead to personal growth and independence.

However, **navigating immigration laws** and securing a **work permit** can be daunting tasks for many. **Adapting** to a new culture and language can also lead to feelings of isolation and homesickness. Moreover, the cost of living, especially in developed countries, can be high, leading to financial stress. Finally, the strain on personal relationships due to distance cannot be overlooked.

In conclusion, while living and working in a foreign country can offer numerous benefits, it is not without its challenges. It is crucial for individuals to weigh these pros and cons carefully before deciding to live abroad. With proper planning and a positive mindset, the challenges can be overcome, making the experience enriching and worthwhile.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1.   **Why do people choose to study or work in a foreign country?**

Well, there are several reasons for this. One of the main reasons is the pursuit of better educational or career opportunities. Studying in a prestigious university or working in a multinational company can greatly enhance one's career prospects. Additionally, living in a foreign country can lead to personal growth and development. It provides an opportunity for **cultural exchange** and helps in improving language skills. Lastly, some people may choose to live abroad simply for the adventure and the chance to explore a new country.

2.   **Should governments encourage their citizens to work abroad?**

In my opinion, governments should definitely encourage their citizens to work abroad, especially if the opportunities in their home country are limited. **Working** overseas can lead to **career advancement** and can also help individuals to develop a global perspective. However, it's also important for governments to create opportunities within the country so that people don't feel the need to leave in the first place.

3.   **How can people overcome the challenges of living in a foreign country?**

Overcoming the challenges of living in a foreign country requires patience, resilience, and a positive attitude. **Learning** the local language can help in easing communication barriers and integrating into the local community. Seeking support from fellow expats, joining local clubs or groups, and making an effort to understand and respect the local culture can also help. Additionally, staying in touch with family and friends back home can provide emotional support.

4.   **How has the trend of living abroad changed over the years?**

Over the years, the trend of living abroad has increased significantly. In the past, people usually moved abroad for better job opportunities or to escape political or economic instability in their home country. However, in recent years, more and more people are choosing to live abroad for lifestyle reasons, to study in high-quality educational institutions, or simply to experience a new culture. Technology has also made it easier to stay connected with loved ones back home, making living abroad less daunting than it used to be.

5. Is traveling to other countries for a significant period of time either to find a job or study common in your country?

Yes, it's quite common in my country. Many young people aspire to study in foreign universities for higher education. Similarly, professionals often seek **overseas employment** for better career prospects and a higher standard of living. However, this trend is more prevalent among the urban and educated population.

Further Reading

1. [The problem with working in a foreign language - BBC Worklife](#)
2. [Study abroad - Wikipedia](#)
3. [Living abroad - GOV.UK](#)
4. [International Migration Report 2013 - United Nations](#)
5. [The benefits of studying abroad - BBC News](#)

Impact of Online Shopping on the Environment and Job Loss:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and Sample Answers

Introduction

The impact of online shopping on the environment and job loss is a complex issue that has gained significant attention in recent years. This article will explore this topic in depth, providing insights into the pros and cons, relevant vocabulary, and sample sentences and essays.

Grammar Point Covered: Comparative Conjunctions

Comparative conjunctions are used to compare and contrast ideas. They include words and phrases like 'whereas', 'while', 'as opposed to', 'in contrast to', and 'on the other hand'. Here are five example sentences about our topic using comparative conjunctions:

1. Online shopping reduces the need for physical stores, whereas it increases the demand for delivery services.
2. While online shopping is convenient for consumers, it has led to job losses in the retail sector.
3. Online shopping has a lower carbon footprint as opposed to traditional shopping, provided the delivery is not expedited.
4. In contrast to traditional shopping, online shopping can lead to excessive packaging waste.
5. Online shopping has made products more accessible, on the other hand, it has contributed to the closure of local businesses.

Pros and Cons Regarding the Topic

Pros	Cons
• Online shopping reduces the need for travel, thereby reducing carbon emissions.	• Online shopping can lead to job losses in the retail sector.
• It offers convenience and saves time for consumers.	• It can contribute to excessive packaging waste.
• Online shopping can provide a wider variety of products than physical stores.	• Online shopping can lead to increased carbon emissions from delivery vehicles.

Pros	Cons
• It allows for easy price comparison.	• It can contribute to the closure of local businesses.
• Online shopping can lead to less impulse buying.	• Online shopping can lead to social isolation.
• It can provide opportunities for remote employment.	• It can result in more returns and waste due to sizing or quality issues.
• Online shopping platforms can offer a global marketplace for small businesses.	• Online shopping can lead to issues with product quality and counterfeit goods.
• It can lead to less overall waste from brick-and-mortar stores.	• It can contribute to over consumption and consumerism.
• Online shopping can provide more information about products, such as reviews and ratings.	• Online shopping can lead to data privacy concerns.
• It can lead to innovation in delivery and packaging solutions.	• It can result in less investment in local economies.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Carbon footprint
- Excessive packaging
- Online marketplace
- Delivery emissions
- Brick-and-mortar stores
- Remote employment
- Product quality
- Data privacy
- Local economies
- Consumer behaviour

Model Sentences Using the Topic Phrases and Grammar Point

While online shopping reduces the **carbon footprint** of individual consumers, it leads to increased delivery emissions.

Brick-and-mortar stores provide local employment, whereas online marketplaces often lead to **remote employment**.

Excessive packaging is a significant environmental concern in contrast to the convenience of online shopping.

Online shopping can lead to issues with product quality, on the other hand, it allows consumers to access a wider variety of products.

While online shopping can lead to data privacy concerns, traditional shopping does not pose such risks.

Local economies may suffer as a result of online shopping, whereas global marketplaces can benefit.

Consumer behaviour has shifted towards online shopping, while traditional retail has seen a decline.

Online shopping can lead to job losses in retail, on the other hand, it can create jobs in logistics and delivery.

While online shopping can lead to social isolation, it provides convenience and time-saving benefits.

In contrast to traditional shopping, online shopping can lead to overconsumption and increased waste.

Model Essay About the Topic

Question: *Nowadays online shopping is extremely popular. Discuss the impact of it on the environment and on people who lost their jobs because of it.*

Online shopping has revolutionised the way consumers purchase goods. While it offers convenience and a wide variety of products, it also has significant environmental and social impacts.

Online shopping has both positive and negative impacts on the environment. On one hand, it reduces the carbon footprint of consumers who no longer need to travel to brick-and-mortar stores. However, this benefit is often offset by the increased delivery emissions and excessive packaging associated with online purchases. Furthermore, the ease and convenience of online shopping can lead to overconsumption, which in turn leads to increased waste.

From a social perspective, the rise of online shopping has led to significant job losses in the retail sector. Many brick-and-mortar stores have been unable to compete with online marketplaces and have had to close, leading to unemployment. On the other hand, online shopping has also created new jobs in areas such as logistics, delivery, and customer service. However, these jobs often require different skills and may not provide a solution for those who have lost their jobs in retail. Furthermore, the shift towards remote employment may not be suitable for everyone, particularly for those who lack the necessary digital skills or resources.

In conclusion, while online shopping has brought many benefits, it has also led to significant environmental and social challenges. It is crucial for policymakers, businesses, and consumers to work together to mitigate these impacts and ensure a sustainable and inclusive digital economy.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1.   **Why do you think online shopping has become so popular?**

Well, I believe online shopping has become popular mainly because of the convenience it offers. You can shop from the comfort of your own home, at any time of the day. Plus, the variety of products available online is often much greater than in brick-and-mortar stores. You can also easily compare prices and read reviews before making a purchase.

2.   **Should governments regulate online marketplaces to protect local businesses?**

That's a tough question. On one hand, local businesses are an important part of the community and economy, and it's important to support them. However, it's also important to recognise the benefits of online marketplaces, such as providing consumers with more choice and convenience. Perhaps a balanced approach would be best, where online marketplaces are regulated, but not to the extent that it stifles innovation or competition.

3.   **How can consumers make more environmentally friendly choices when shopping online?**

Well, consumers can make more environmentally friendly choices by considering the carbon footprint of their purchases. This includes considering the environmental impact of delivery emissions and excessive packaging. They could choose slower delivery options, buy in bulk to reduce packaging, or choose products that are locally made to reduce delivery emissions. They could also choose to buy from companies that have environmentally friendly practices.

4.   **How has the popularity of online shopping changed over time in your country?**

In my country, the popularity of online shopping has skyrocketed over the past decade. Whereas in the past, people were hesitant about buying things online, these days it's become the norm. I think this is largely due to improvements in technology, as well as changes in consumer behaviour and expectations.

5.   Is online shopping common in your country? How do people in your country feel about it?

Yes, online shopping is very common in my country. Most people I know do at least some of their shopping online. I think people generally have a positive view of it, as it offers convenience and a wide variety of products. However, there are also concerns about issues such as data privacy and the impact on local businesses.

Further Reading

1. Wikipedia: Online Shopping
2. BBC: How has lockdown changed our shopping habits?
3. UK Government: Online Marketplaces and Disparities in the Digital Economy
4. BBC: Climate change: Online shopping has a hidden cost
5. ResearchGate: The Impact of Online Shopping on Retail Stores

Private Car Ownership vs Public Transportation Advantages and Disadvantages:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and Sample Answers

Introduction

In this article, we will explore the topic of private car ownership versus public transportation, examining its pros and cons, and discussing it in the context of society.

Grammar Point Covered: Paired Conjunctions

Paired conjunctions, also known as correlative conjunctions, are pairs of phrases that work together to coordinate words in a sentence. Examples include "both/and", "either/or", "neither/nor", and "not only/but also". Here are five sentences about our topic using paired conjunctions:

1. Not only do private cars offer convenience, but they also provide a sense of personal freedom.
2. Both public transportation and private cars have their own unique advantages.
3. Either we invest more in public transportation, or we face increased traffic congestion.
4. Neither ignoring the environmental impact of private cars nor neglecting the infrastructure of public transportation is an option.
5. Public transportation is not only cost-effective but also environmentally friendly.

Pros and Cons Regarding the Topic

Pros	Cons
• Reduces traffic congestion. • Lower carbon emissions per passenger.	• May not cover all areas, leaving some people isolated. • Can be overcrowded during peak times.

Pros	Cons
• Can be more cost-effective for users.	• May not be as convenient as private cars.
• Promotes social equity by providing mobility for all.	• Can be subject to delays and cancellations.
• Can stimulate local economies.	• May not be suitable for people with certain disabilities.
• Encourages healthier lifestyles (walking to stations, etc.)	• Can be a target for crime or anti-social behaviour.
• Less parking space required.	• May not operate at all times of day.
• Can be a safer mode of transport.	• Can be less comfortable than private cars.
• Reduces dependence on fossil fuels.	• May require significant government subsidies.
• Can offer a stress-free commute.	• Infrastructure can be expensive to build and maintain.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Public transport infrastructure
- Carbon emissions
- Traffic congestion
- Urban mobility
- Transport policy
- Peak commuting hours
- Environmental impact
- Personal freedom
- Social equity
- Government subsidies

Model Sentences Using the Topic Phrases and Grammar Point

Not only does **public transport infrastructure** reduce **traffic congestion**, **but it also** lowers **carbon emissions**.

Both urban mobility and **personal freedom** are important considerations in any **transport policy**.

Either we accept the **environmental impact** of private cars, or we invest in public transportation.

Neither ignoring the **social equity** aspects of public transportation nor the convenience of private cars is a viable option.

Public transportation is **not only** a solution to **peak commuting hours** congestion, **but also** a way to reduce **government subsidies** on road maintenance.

Model Essay About the Topic

Question: *In some countries the government promotes public transport as the primary means of transportation, and discourages private vehicle ownership. Do you think the advantages of this policy outweigh the disadvantages?*

The debate over private car ownership versus public transportation is a contentious one. While private vehicles offer convenience and freedom, public transportation is often seen as a more sustainable and equitable solution.

There are several advantages to promoting public transportation. Not only does it help to reduce **traffic congestion**, **but it also** lowers **carbon emissions**, contributing to environmental sustainability. Furthermore, public transportation promotes **social equity** by providing mobility for all, regardless of income.

However, there are also disadvantages to discouraging private vehicle ownership. Private cars offer a level of convenience that public transportation often cannot match. They allow for travel at any time, without the need to adhere to a schedule or route. Additionally, in rural or remote areas, public transportation may not be a viable option.

In conclusion, while there are clear advantages to promoting public transportation, it is important to consider the potential disadvantages. A balanced approach, which considers the specific```html needs of the community and the environment, is likely to be the most effective.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1.   Why do some people prefer public transportation over private car ownership?

Well, there are several reasons why some people might prefer public transportation. One of the main reasons is the cost. Owning a private car can be quite expensive when you consider the cost of fuel, insurance, maintenance, and parking. Public transportation, on the other hand, is generally much more affordable. Additionally, public transportation can be more environmentally friendly, as it reduces the number of cars on the road and, therefore, the amount of **carbon emissions.**

2.   Should governments do more to promote public transportation?

I believe that governments should indeed do more to promote public transportation. Not only can it help to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions, but it also promotes social equity by providing mobility for all, regardless of income. However, it's also important to ensure that public transportation is reliable, safe, and covers a wide area, so that it's a viable option for as many people as possible.

3.   How can public transportation be improved?

There are several ways in which public transportation could be improved. Firstly, increasing the frequency of services, especially during peak commuting hours, could make it a more convenient option for many people. Secondly, expanding the coverage of public transportation networks could ensure that more people have access to these services. Finally, investing in newer, more comfortable vehicles could make public transportation a more attractive option.

4.   How has public transportation changed over the years?

Public transportation has changed significantly over the years. In the past, options were often limited to buses and trams, and services were not always reliable. However, in recent years, many cities have invested in extensive public transportation networks, including trains, buses, and light rail systems. Additionally, technology has played a role in improving public transportation, with apps that provide real-time updates on schedules and routes, and cashless payment systems for convenience.

5.   Is public transportation common in your country?

In my country, public transportation is quite common in urban areas. We have a well-developed network of buses, trams, and trains that many people rely on for their daily commute. However, in more rural areas, public transportation is less common, and most people rely on private cars.

Further Reading

1. Public Transport - Wikipedia
2. Why More People Should Use Public Transport - BBC
3. Greenhouse Gas Reporting: Conversion Factors 2019 - UK Government
4. Rebuilding Public Transport - Transport for Quality of Life
5. Public Transport vs. Private Car GIS-based Estimation of Accessibility Applied to the Case Study of Trondheim, Norway - ScienceDirect

Children Playing with Electronic Devices Rather Than Traditional Toys:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and Sample Answers

Introduction

In this era of technology, children increasingly prefer to play with electronic devices **rather than** engaging in traditional leisure activities. This article will delve into this topic, exploring its implications for society, while also focusing on the use of the term 'rather' in essay writing.

Grammar Point Covered: Inversion

The term 'rather' is often used in English to express preference. It can be used to compare two things and denote that one is preferred over the other. Here are five sentences about our topic, using 'rather':

1. Children these days would **rather** play video games than read books.
2. She would **rather** spend her time on her tablet than go outside and play.
3. Some parents think that their children should be playing sports **rather** than playing video games.

Pros and Cons Regarding Government Supporting Artists

Pros	Cons
• Develops technological skills from a young age.	• Can lead to sedentary lifestyles and associated health problems.
• Provides an avenue for creativity through digital platforms.	• Potential for exposure to inappropriate content online.
• Can aid in learning through educational apps and games.	• May impede development of social skills through lack of face-to-face interaction.
• Offers a means of social connection in an increasingly digital world.	• Potential for addiction to electronic devices.
• Potential to explore a wide range of topics through the internet.	• Can interfere with sleep if used too close to bedtime.
• Promotes problem-solving and strategic thinking through certain games.	• May detract from time spent on homework or academic studies.
• Can be a source of comfort and familiarity.	• Increased risk of cyberbullying.

Pros	Cons
• Children can learn and adapt to new technologies faster.	• May limit the development of physical skills that come with traditional play.
• Allows for a wide range of entertainment options.	• Can foster an over-reliance on technology for entertainment.
• Can offer tailored learning experiences through AI technology.	• Potential for less time spent outdoors, resulting in reduced connection with nature.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Digital Literacy
- Online Safety
- Screen Time
- Cyber Bullying
- Physical Inactivity
- Social Isolation
- Attention Span
- Virtual Reality
- Interactive Learning

Model Sentences Using the Topic Phrases and Grammar Point

While **online safety** is important, some children would **rather** play unsupervised.

Some children prefer **social isolation** due to extensive video gaming **rather** than participating in outdoor activities.

Teachers are concerned that electronic devices are affecting children's **attention span rather** than improving it.

Children would **rather** experience **virtual reality** than real-world interactions.

Many parents believe that their children would **rather** engage in **interactive learning** than traditional textbook learning.

He would **rather** spend hours on **online gaming** than doing his homework.

Model Essay About the Topic

Question: *Nowadays, most children prefer to spend several hours playing with electronic devices over doing more traditional leisure activities. What problem does this cause? What do you think are possible solutions?*

In today's digital age, it is becoming increasingly common for children to **rather** spend their time playing with electronic devices, a trend that poses several challenges. This essay will discuss the issues stemming from this reality and propose some possible solutions.

One major problem resulting from this shift towards electronic play is the decline in **physical inactivity**. Hours spent in front of screens lead to sedentary behaviours, potentially causing health problems such as obesity and poor posture. Moreover, the increased **screen time** can adversely impact children's sleep patterns and mental health.

Online safety is another significant issue. Young children might stumble upon inappropriate content or become victims of **cyber bullying**. Furthermore, this over-reliance on technology can lead to Social Isolation, as children choose virtual interactions over real-life socialising.

However, there are practical solutions to mitigate these problems. First, parents and educators can enforce screen time limits to ensure a healthy balance between physical activity and electronic play. Second, digital literacy programmes should be introduced at schools, teaching children about online safety and responsible digital behaviour. Finally, promoting interactive, educational games can ensure that screen time is not just enjoyable but also enriching.

In conclusion, while the trend of children preferring electronic devices over traditional leisure activities poses several problems, these can be mitigated through regulation, education, and the promotion of beneficial digital activities. Ultimately, it is about achieving a balance, rather than completely eliminating electronic play.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1. **Why do you think children prefer playing with electronic devices rather than playing outdoors?**

Well, I believe children prefer electronic devices primarily because of their interactive and entertaining nature. These devices offer a plethora of games and activities that can captivate children's attention for hours, unlike traditional outdoor games that may seem less stimulating in comparison. Besides, the increasing **Digital Literacy** among children also makes these devices more accessible and appealing to them.

2. **Should parents limit their children's use of electronic devices?**

Yes, I strongly believe that parents should regulate their children's use of electronic devices. While these devices can be educational and entertaining, excessive **screen time** can lead to problems such as physical inactivity, sleep disturbances, and even addiction in some cases. It's not a case of throwing the baby out with the bathwater*, but parents should definitely strive for a balanced approach.

3. **How can we ensure that children use electronic devices safely and beneficially?**

I'm not an expert on this topic, but I guess promoting **online safety** and digital literacy from a young age could be a good starting point. Children need to be educated about the potential dangers of the internet, and parents and educators should supervise and guide their online activities. Additionally, promoting educational games and apps can ensure that screen time is not only enjoyable but also enriching.

4. **Do you think children today have a better childhood than the previous generation because of electronic devices?**

That's an interesting question. Well, it's a double-edged sword really. On the one hand, electronic devices offer a wealth of learning and entertainment resources that past generations did not have access to. On the other hand, over-reliance on these devices might lead to a decrease in **physical activity** and face-to-face social interactions. So, it's not necessarily better, just different.

5. **How do people in your country feel about children playing with electronic devices rather than traditional games?**

As far as I know, people in my country have mixed feelings about this. While many appreciate the benefits of digital devices such as increased **digital literacy** and interactive learning opportunities, others are concerned about the potential drawbacks such as physical inactivity and social isolation. So, there is a growing awareness about the need for a balanced approach.

Throwing the baby out with the bathwater is an idiomatic expression which means to get rid of valuable things while trying to get rid of unwanted things.

Further Reading

1. Screen time and children: How to guide your child - NHS (UK)
2. How does screen time affect kids' brains? - BBC Newsround
3. Children's screen time has soared in lockdown, says report - BBC News
4. Impact of Electronic Media on Cognitive Development of Children - ResearchGate
5. Impact of video games on children - Wikipedia

Media and International News:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and
Sample Answers

Introduction

The consumption and understanding of media and international news has far-reaching implications for society. This article explores the topic from various perspectives, providing vocabulary, grammar points, and model answers for English language learners.

Grammar Point Covered:

A comma is a punctuation mark used to indicate a pause in a sentence or to separate things. In terms of English grammar, commas are often used to separate independent clauses when they are joined by coordinating conjunctions, to separate items in a list, or to set off nonessential clauses or phrases.

1. Despite the proliferation of social media, traditional news outlets still have a significant role in shaping public opinion.
2. Media conglomerates, despite their vast resources, can sometimes fall prey to biased reporting.
3. International news, although crucial for a well-informed populace, often receives less attention than domestic news.
4. Media literacy, a critical skill in the digital age, should be taught in schools.
5. News outlets, by providing a platform for dialogue, can foster international understanding.

Pros and Cons Regarding Media and International News

Pros	Cons
• Promotes global awareness and understanding.	• Risk of misinformation and propaganda.
• Fosters cultural exchange and empathy.	• Potential for bias and agenda-driven reporting.
• Provides a check and balance on governmental actions.	• Over-reliance on media can discourage independent thought.
• Aids in the democratic process by informing voters.	• May lead to information overload and anxiety.

Pros	Cons
• Facilitates academic research and discussions.	• Differences in media laws across countries can affect the objectivity of news.
• Supports transparency in international relations.	• Can foster stereotypes and cultural misunderstandings.
• Allows for a multiplicity of perspectives and opinions.	• May prioritise sensationalism over factual reporting.
• Breaks down geographical barriers and promotes globalisation.	• Challenges of translation and linguistic nuances.
• Helps individuals stay updated about global trends and events.	• Threat to national security through the spread of sensitive information.
• Encourages responsible citizenship in a global context.	• May distract from domestic issues and news.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Media literacy
- Global awareness
- Biased reporting
- Cultural exchange
- Globalisation trends
- Misinformation spread
- Agenda-driven reporting
- Sensationalism in media
- International relations transparency
- Democratic process awareness

Model Sentences Using Media and International News Phrases and Comma Basics

Global awareness, fostered by responsible media consumption, is crucial for international cooperation.

Due to **biased reporting,** many news consumers have skewed perspectives on global events.

Sensationalism in media, a disturbing trend, can lead to public panic and misunderstanding.

Media literacy is vital for discerning factual information from the misinformation spread.

Agenda-driven reporting can hinder the democratic process and limit public awareness.

Without adequate international relations transparency, distrust between nations can fester.

Globalisation trends, although often complex, can be understood through dedicated international news outlets.

A broadened cultural exchange, facilitated by international media, can foster global unity.

Despite potential pitfalls, the role of media in fostering democratic process awareness cannot be understated.

The rise of digital media platforms, despite their benefits, has amplified the risk of misinformation spread.

Model Essay About Media and International News

Question: *It is believed that secondary school children should study international news as one of their school subjects. Others think that this is a waste of valuable school time. Discuss both views and give your opinions.*

In today's interconnected world, the exposure to international news is almost inevitable. There's a debate whether secondary school children should formally study international news as a part of their curriculum. Some argue that it detracts from essential subjects, while others see it as a crucial part of a modern education.

On one hand, those against the integration of international news into the curriculum argue that it may lead to an information overload. They believe that school children already have enough on their plate with the conventional subjects such as mathematics, science, and languages. Additionally, they contend that not all news is suitable for young minds, and exposing them to global conflicts and crises might induce unnecessary anxiety.

On the other hand, proponents of including international news in education argue that it promotes **global awareness** and **media literacy**. In the age of **misinformation spread**, teaching students to analyse and critically evaluate news content can equip them with the skills to discern fact from fiction. Furthermore, being informed about global issues encourages empathy and a sense of global citizenship.

In conclusion, while there are valid concerns about the potential negative impacts of integrating international news into the school curriculum, I believe that its benefits outweigh the drawbacks. It is crucial for students to engage with the wider world and to develop critical thinking skills. By providing guidance and context, schools can help students navigate this complex information landscape effectively and responsibly.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1.   **Why do you think media literacy is important in today's society?**

Well, to be honest, I believe **media literacy** is crucial because we're constantly bombarded with information from various sources. It's important to be able to distinguish between reliable news and misinformation. Moreover, being media literate can help us understand the different perspectives presented in the news and make informed decisions.

2.   **Should there be stricter regulations on media to prevent biased reporting?**

In my opinion, regulations can be a double-edged sword. On one hand, they can prevent **biased reporting**, but on the other, too much regulation might suppress freedom of speech. It's a fine line to walk, but I guess it's necessary to maintain some level of oversight to ensure the accuracy and fairness of news reporting.

3.   **How has the role of media in international relations evolved over the years?**

I'm not an expert on this topic, but as far as I know, media has become increasingly influential in shaping public opinion and international relations. It's the lens through which we view the world, and it can shape perceptions and even influence diplomatic policies. This is largely due to the rise of digital media and the instant, widespread reach of news.

4.   **How does the media coverage of international events now compare to the past?**

Well, in the past, the coverage of international events was not as immediate or pervasive as it is today. Nowadays, thanks to technological advancements and **globalisation trends**, we have instant access to news from around the world. However, with this increased access comes the risk of misinformation and the challenge of discerning reliable sources.

5. **Is media and international news consumption common in your country?**

Yes, in my country, the consumption of media and international news is quite common. With advancements in technology and the proliferation of smartphones, people have access to global news at their fingertips. As a result, people are becoming more aware of international events and global issues. However, the spread of misinformation is also a growing concern that needs to be addressed.

Further Reading

1. BBC - Breaking News, World News & Video
2. Wikipedia - Media and Society
3. UK Government - Media Literacy
4. University of Cambridge - The Psychology of Misinformation
5. Media Bias/Fact Check

Friendship and Agreeability:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and
Sample Answers

Introduction

Friendship and agreeability are integral aspects of social interaction, impacting individual and collective experiences. This article will delve into the nuances of these concepts, providing vocabulary, grammatical insights, and model responses concerning the same.

Grammar Point Covered: Paired Conjunctions

The grammar point in focus is run-on sentences, which occur when two or more independent clauses are connected improperly. They often result from an absence of punctuation, or inappropriate conjunctions between the clauses.
Here are five examples related to the topic:

1. They share the same interests, they have different opinions on certain matters.
2. Friends can challenge our perspectives, they can provide emotional support.
3. I appreciate agreeability in friendships, I also value healthy disagreements.
4. My friend disagrees with me on various issues, we still maintain a strong bond.
5. Agreeability can make friendships smoother, it may hinder personal growth.

Pros and Cons Regarding Friendship and Agreeability

Pros	Cons
They share the same interests, they have different opinions on certain matters.	Constant agreement might inhibit individual growth and independence.
Friends can challenge our perspectives, they can provide emotional support.	There could be a lack of diversity in thought and perspective.
I appreciate agreeability in friendships, I also value healthy disagreements.	Agreeability might encourage confirmation bias.
My friend disagrees with me on various issues, we still maintain a strong bond.	Over-agreeability might result in suppressed feelings and resentment.
Agreeability can make friendships smoother, it may hinder personal growth.	Lack of disagreement could indicate a lack of deeper engagement.

Pros	Cons
• Shared opinions can deepen the bond of friendship.	• High agreeability might signify fear of conflict.
• High agreeability often signifies similar values and principles.	• Friendships without disagreements might lack authenticity.
• Agreeability can facilitate easier decision-making processes.	• Continual agreement could lead to complacency.
• Similar perspectives can lead to shared goals and aspirations.	• Agreeability might discourage critical thinking and debate.
• Shared views might promote collective action in social causes.	• Shared views might lead to groupthink, hampering innovation.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Harmonious relationship
- Echo chamber
- Confirmation bias
- Suppressed feelings
- Deeper engagement
- Fear of conflict
- Authentic friendship
- Critical thinking
- Groupthink
- Mutual understanding

Model Sentences Using Friendship and Agreeability Phrases and Run-On Sentences

A harmonious relationship can provide comfort, it may not stimulate critical thinking.

The **echo chamber** effect can validate our beliefs, it can also promote confirmation bias.

Suppressed feelings can lead to resentment, deeper engagement can prevent this.

While fear of conflict can maintain peace, it can also hinder **authentic friendship**.

Groupthink might bring cohesion, it could also discourage individual perspectives.

Mutual understanding can deepen the bond, constant agreement might lead to complacency.

Authentic friendship involves disagreements, it's still based on mutual respect.

Critical thinking can stimulate healthy debates, it can sometimes cause conflict.

While agreeability can foster a **harmonious relationship**, it might also lead to **suppressed feelings**.

Fear of conflict might result in an **echo chamber**, it might prevent **critical thinking**.

Model Essay About Friendship and Agreeability

Question: *Some people think it's better to choose friends who always have the same opinions as them. Other people believe it is good to have friends who sometimes disagree with them. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.*

Friendship, a significant aspect of human life, often involves striking a balance between agreement and disagreement. While some argue that having like-minded friends brings about harmony, others contend that disagreements add value to relationships. This essay will explore both perspectives before revealing my stance.

Many individuals find solace in having friends who share similar opinions. In such **harmonious relationships**, there is often less conflict and an enhanced **mutual understanding**. Shared views can foster a comforting sense of validation, acting as an **echo chamber** that reinforces beliefs and values. However, this agreeability can also be a double-edged sword, potentially leading to **suppressed feelings** and reduced personal growth. For instance, important issues might be overlooked to maintain peace, hindering the development of crucial life skills like negotiation and conflict resolution.

On the other hand, having friends who occasionally disagree can be enlightening and growth-promoting. These differences in opinions can encourage **critical thinking** and foster **deeper engagement** with varied perspectives. A healthy dose of disagreement can break the potential **groupthink** that might occur in agreeable friendships, thus enabling individuality and creativity. However, such relationships might require a high level of emotional maturity to handle conflicts constructively without damaging the **authentic friendship**.

In my opinion, a balanced blend of agreeability and occasional disagreements is ideal in a friendship. While shared opinions offer comfort and solidarity, disagreements provide opportunities for personal growth and empathy. It is through this balance that friendships can provide a safe yet stimulating environment for personal development.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1.   **Why do some people prefer friends who always agree with them?**

Well, some people might prefer agreeable friends because they find comfort and validation in shared opinions. The **mutual understanding** often found in such friendships can create a strong sense of solidarity. But it's like being in an **echo chamber*** - you mostly hear your own thoughts and views echoed back, which can be comforting but might not promote personal growth.

*An echo chamber is a situation in which one's beliefs are reinforced by repeated exposure to similar views.

2.   **Should friends always share the same opinions to maintain a strong friendship?**

I don't think it's necessary for friends to always share the same opinions. Yes, agreeability can lead to a **harmonious relationship**, but it's also crucial to encourage **critical thinking** and individual perspectives. I think it's healthy to have differences as long as they are handled with respect.

3.   **How do disagreements affect friendships?**

In my view, disagreements can have a dual effect on friendships. On the one hand, they can cause conflict and strain the relationship. On the other hand, disagreements can lead to **deeper engagement** and growth, challenging the risk of **groupthink**. So, it's all about how these disagreements are managed.

4.   **How has the role of agreeability in friendships changed from the past to the present?**

As far as I know, in the past, agreeability was often highly valued in friendships as it was seen to maintain a **harmonious relationship**. However, with the advent of a more individualistic society, people are now encouraged to voice differing opinions and promote **critical thinking**, even in friendships. This can make friendships more diverse and enriching, but it may also introduce more potential for conflict.

5.   **How important is agreeability in friendships in your country?**

I'm not an expert on this topic, but I would say in my country, agreeability is viewed as an important aspect of friendships. However, there is also increasing recognition of the importance of **authentic friendship** where differences of opinion are allowed and respected. I guess there's a shift towards a balance between agreeability and healthy disagreement.

Further Reading

1. How your friends change your habits - for better and worse (BBC Future)
2. Friendship (Wikipedia)
3. Agreeableness and activeness as components of conflict behaviors (PubMed)
4. Friendship and Natural Selection (Cambridge University Press)
5. A six-factor structure of personality-descriptive adjectives: solutions from psycholexical studies in seven languages (University of British Columbia)

Fast Food in Society and the Impact on Lifestyle and Diet:

Topic Ideas, Grammar, Vocabulary and Sample Answers

Introduction

Fast food is an integral part of modern life and has significant effects on our lifestyles and diets. This article aims to explore the implications of fast food, focusing on its pros and cons, topic-specific vocabulary, and incorporating the concept of subject-verb agreement in sentence construction.

Grammar Point Covered: Paired Conjunctions

Subject-verb agreement refers to the grammatical rule that the verb in a sentence must agree in number with its subject. In other words, singular subjects need singular verbs, and plural subjects need plural verbs. Here are five examples related to fast food:

1. **The burger** often **contains** high levels of saturated fats.
2. **Fast food restaurants are** conveniently located in urban areas.
3. **A diet** high in fast food **leads** to health problems.
4. **Obesity rates are** rising due to the prevalence of fast food.
5. **The consumption** of fast food is increasing worldwide.

Pros and Cons Regarding Fast Food

Pros	Cons
• Fast food is quick and convenient for busy individuals.	• Fast food is often high in calories, fat, sugar, and sodium.
• It offers a variety of options catering to different tastes and preferences.	• It may contribute to obesity and other health problems.
• Fast food restaurants provide employment opportunities.	• Fast food culture promotes overconsumption and waste.
• It can be a comforting and enjoyable experience for many.	• The industry is known for poor working conditions and low wages.
• Fast food often comes with promotional deals making it affordable for many.	• Fast food is often associated with animal cruelty and environmental damage.

Pros	Cons
• Some fast food chains have started offering healthier options.	• It can contribute to poor eating habits and lifestyle.
• They offer a consistent taste across different locations.	• Fast food chains often target children with their marketing, influencing their dietary choices.
• Fast food outlets can be a social gathering spot for teenagers and young adults.	• It often lacks essential nutrients required for a balanced diet.
• Many fast food chains are embracing sustainable practices.	• The convenience of fast food discourages home cooking and traditional food culture.
• It helps in contributing to the local economy.	• It contributes to societal health costs.

Topic Specific Vocabulary Collocations and Phrases

- Fast food consumption
- High calorie content
- Poor dietary choices
- Convenient food option
- Unhealthy lifestyle
- Health implications
- Prevalence of obesity
- Excessive portion sizes
- Saturated fat intake
- Processed food ingredients

Model Sentences Using the Topic Phrases and Subject-Verb Agreement

Fast food consumption is linked to various health problems.

The high calorie content in fast food **leads** to weight gain.

Poor dietary choices often **result** in long-term health issues.

Fast food provides a **convenient food option** for busy individuals.

An unhealthy lifestyle is often associated with frequent fast food intake.

Health implications of fast food **include** heart diseases and diabetes.

The **prevalence of obesity is** higher in regions with more fast food outlets.

Excessive portion sizes in fast food restaurants encourage overeating.

Fast food **increases** the **saturated fat intake** of individuals.

The **processed food ingredients** in fast food are harmful to our health.

Model Essay About Fast Food

Question: *Fast food is a part of life in many places. Some people think this has bad effects on lifestyle and diets. Do you agree or disagree?*

Undoubtedly, **fast food consumption** has become a pervasive aspect of contemporary societies. While some argue it offers a convenient solution for urban dwellers juggling hectic schedules, I firmly believe that its adverse effects on lifestyle and dietary habits are undeniable.

The proliferation of fast food restaurants, underpinned by the culture of instant gratification, has contributed significantly to an **unhealthy lifestyle**. Firstly, the **convenient food option** fast food provides has resulted in reduced cooking at home, leading to the erosion of family bonding time traditionally found in shared meals. Furthermore, fast food often leads to sedentary activities, such as eating in front of the television, which reduces physical activity and can contribute to weight gain.

The impact of fast food on diet is also highly detrimental. Characterised by **excessive portion sizes** and a **high calorie content**, fast food can contribute to overeating and obesity. Coupled with the high levels of saturated fat, sugar, and sodium, it increases the risk of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. The frequency of fast food intake can also influence children's dietary preferences, leading to **poor dietary choices** and health implications in their adult lives.

In conclusion, despite the convenience that fast food provides, its impacts on lifestyle and diets are profound and negative. Society must therefore promote healthier dietary choices and lifestyles, perhaps by offering healthier alternatives and implementing educational programmes about nutrition and cooking.

Speaking Part 3 Questions and Model Answers

1.   Why do you think fast food is so popular today?

Well, to be honest, I think the main reason for the popularity of fast food is the convenience it offers. We live in a fast-paced society where people often don't have the time or energy to cook at home. Fast food outlets, with their quick service and accessible locations, provide a **convenient food option** that suits our modern lifestyle.

2.   Should governments regulate the fast food industry more strictly?

I'm not an expert on this topic, but I guess you could say that there's a need for more regulation. Given the significant **health implications** of **fast food consumption**, governments could implement measures such as taxing unhealthy food, restricting advertising targeted at children, or requiring outlets to display nutritional information prominently. This could help people make more informed dietary choices.

3.   How has the prevalence of fast food changed eating habits?

As far as I know, the rise of fast food has made a huge impact on eating habits. The availability and convenience of these foods have led many people to opt for these quick meals rather than cooking at home, which can lead to **poor dietary choices**. Moreover, the **high calorie content** and large portion sizes of fast food have also contributed to overeating and weight gain. It's a bit of a double-edged sword*, really.

4.   Do you think people will continue to consume as much fast food in the future as they do now?

I've never really thought about it before, but I suppose the consumption of fast food might continue at a similar level, unless there are major shifts in societal attitudes or regulations. However, there is a growing awareness of the health effects of **fast food consumption**, so perhaps more people will begin to opt for healthier alternatives. Only time will tell.

5.   Is fast food common in your country? How do people in your country feel about fast food?

Yes, fast food is quite common in my country. Many people appreciate it for its convenience and affordability. However, there is also a growing understanding of the **health implications** associated with it. So, while fast food continues to be a popular choice, especially among younger people, there's an increasing demand for healthier options as well.

*double-edged sword: a situation which has both positive and negative outcomes

Further Reading

1. [Fast food outlets should be limited, say MPs (BBC)](#)
2. [Fast Food Consumption and Increased Caloric Intake: a Systematic Review of a Trajectory Towards Weight Gain and Obesity Risk (NCBI)](#)
3. [Fast-food consumption among adults in the United States, 1994–2016 (Cambridge University Press)](#)
4. [Fast Food (Wikipedia)](#)
5. [Fast Food Outlets: Density by local authority in England (GOV.UK)](#)