

IELTS CORNER

GET THE HIGHEST SCORE POSSIBLE!



VOL. 4, No. 3

January 20, 2022

Welcome to your new edition of the Avant English Program's *IELTS Corner* newsletter!

Here is a review of the contents.

1. **Quiz Question** – Choose the correct word.
2. **IELTS Video of the Week** – Master IELTS Writing Class.
3. **Vocabulary File** – University.
4. **Article 1:** 10 Ways to Improve Your Style in Academic Writing
5. **Bonus:** Free British Council Webinars and IELTS Speaking 9.0 with Mask (video)
6. **Activity 1:** Animal Idioms

Phrases: Choose the correct word below.

Check your answer in the Solutions.



1. A fatally injured driver: **a)** succumbs to his/her injuries OR **b)** pulls through
2. The number of crimes **is / are** growing in the city.

IELTS Video of the Week

Master the IELTS Writing Test - [video](#)

Vocabulary File – University

Study this topic vocabulary to help you with questions on the exam.

 IELTS VOCABULARY FILE – UNIVERSITY 

<p>VERBS</p> <p>Assess - To evaluate; to make a judgement about something</p> <p>Propose - To suggest something</p> <p>Extrapolate - to form an opinion from facts</p> <p>Formulate - to create or produce something after careful thought</p> <p>NOUNS, ADJECTIVES</p> <p>Parochial - narrow, limited; narrow-minded</p> <p>Duplication – containing or making copies of something</p> <p>Scholarship – money given by a school to pay a student's expenses</p> <p>Alma Mater – the school or college someone attended</p>	<p>PHRASAL VERBS - IDIOMS - COLLOCATIONS</p> <p>Copycat – someone who copies the ideas or works of others</p> <p>To learn something by heart - to memorize something completely</p> <p>To pass with flying colors - to pass (a test) easily and with a high score</p> <p>Thirst for knowledge – a desire to learn</p> <p>To drop out of school – to stop attending classes</p> <p>Bookworm – someone who reads a lot</p>
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10 Ways to Improve Your Style in Academic Writing

Work on improving your Academic Writing skills before the exam.

Be aware of these 10 ways to your *style* of writing to gain points in the IELTS Writing section.

VIDEO RESOURCES:

IELTS Essay Writing –
[web post](#)

Sentence Variety
– [web post](#)

Wordiness/Redundancy –
[web post](#)

Cohesion and Coherence –
[web post](#)

1. Use Active Voice.

Ex: Jack threw the ball to Janice.

The active voice is clearer and uses less words.

2. Use Passive Voice.

Ex: The ball was thrown to Janice (by Jack).

Use the passive voice – occasionally – to add variety to your sentences. The passive voice is more acceptable in academic writing.

3. Vary your punctuation.

Carefully, use the semicolon (;) for an added stylistic flourish. The semicolon can hold together two independent clauses (sentences). Don't be like many candidates who mistakenly use the comma (,) between sentences.

Ex: Jack threw the ball to Janice; she did not catch it.

4. Mix up your sentence types.

Don't write simple sentences over and over. Change up your sentence structures to gain more points!

Simple Sentences: Jack threw the ball to Janice.

Compound Sentences: Jack threw the ball to Janice, **but** she didn't catch it.

Complex Sentences: **Before Jack threw the ball to Janice**, he wiped off the dirt. OR: Jack wiped off the dirt before he threw it to Janice.

Compound-Complex Sentences: **Before Jack threw the ball to Janice**, he wiped off the dirt and stomped his feet on the ground.

[See: [Other ways to add variety to sentences](#)].

5. Make your sentences flow. Write a topic sentence in the first line of a paragraph. Use signposts (First...Second) to introduce your ideas. Use Discourse Markers (However, Therefore) to connect ideas.

Ex: Children should learn a foreign language for two reasons. [topic sentence] First, [signpost] young people learn a second language faster than adults. Second, [signpost] research shows bilinguals have better job opportunities. Therefore, [Discourse] children should study Spanish, French, or another language alongside English.

6. Avoid repetition. Proofread your writing and look out for these five (5) most overused words: so, still, though, very, and well.

7. Be concise. Use less words. Replace “The reason for”, “due to the fact that”, “in light of the fact that”, “given the fact that”, and “considering the fact that” with because, since, or why.

8. Improve your vocabulary. One of the best moves you can make before presenting the IELTS Academic test is upgrading your word power.

A sharper vocabulary helps you avoid repeating words and thus write concisely. Plus, you can easily find a synonym to replace any terms from the prompts (in the Speaking or Writing sections).

9. Always use formal language. Academic writing is formal and at a higher level than many candidates are accustomed. One manifestation of that is...

10. Don't use contractions. Write out cannot for *can't* and does not for *doesn't*. Remember, contractions are used in conversational not formal written academic English.

Bonus:

[Free British Council Webinars](#)

[IELTS Speaking 9.0 with Mask \(video\)](#)

Activity1: Animal Idioms

Animal Idioms	
let sleeping dogs lie	To not mention something that could cause trouble
smell a rat	To sense that something is wrong
a wild goose chase	a search that has no chance of success
a fish out of water	To feel awkward
a cold fish	An unsociable person
have other fish to fry	To have more important things to do
a fly in the ointment	a difficulty which prevents total enjoyment
have a bee in your bonnet	To be obsessed with something
not hurt a fly	To be harmless
take the bull by the horns	To confront a problem instead of avoiding it

Directions: Match the phrase on the left with its definition on the right. Check your answers in the Solutions below.

<p>_1. not hurt a fly</p> <p>_2 smell a rat</p> <p>_3. take the bull by the horns</p> <p>_4. a fish out of water</p> <p>_5. have a bee in your bonnet</p> <p>_6. have other fish to fry</p> <p>_7. a cold fish</p> <p>_8. a fly in the ointment</p> <p>_9. let sleeping dogs lie</p> <p>_10. a wild goose chase</p>	<p>a. To feel awkward</p> <p>b. An unsociable person</p> <p>c. a difficulty which prevents total enjoyment</p> <p>d. To not mention something that could cause trouble</p> <p>e. To be harmless</p> <p>f. a search that has no chance of success</p> <p>g. To confront a problem instead of avoiding it</p> <p>h. To sense that something is wrong</p> <p>i. To have more important things to do</p> <p>j. To be obsessed with something</p>
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SOLUTIONS

1. A fatally injured driver: **a)** succumbs to his/her injuries
2. The number of crimes **is** growing in the city.
The number is always singular.

Activity 2: Animal Idioms

1. E	6. I
2. H	7. B
3. G	8. C
4. A	9. D
5. J	10. F