

LESSON 185

1139

Writing an essay

Please note: There are writing homework titles at the end of this book.

An essay:

- is a short piece of writing that presents ideas on a particular topic and discusses them. The writer reaches some kind of conclusion at the end;
- is usually written by students (at school, college or university) for a teacher, professor etc.

"For young single adults, living alone is a better option than sharing accommodation." Discuss.

Most young single adults live either with family members or friends. However, these days, many are choosing to live on their own.

(2) Each paragraph should focus on a particular point, or aspect of the topic, that you want to discuss.

One advantage of not sharing accommodation is that you have **control over your time**. You can go out with friends whenever you like, but if you want a quiet evening with a book or film, for example, you can have it; there is nobody around to interfere with your plans.

(1) Start with general information that introduces the topic of your essay.

Another benefit of living alone is that you are not forced to put up with other people's annoying habits, whether it is **dirty plates in the sink or loud music late at night**.

Living alone means you automatically avoid the awkward conversations and arguments that housemates often have about things like this.

(3) Make your ideas clearer by illustrating them with examples.

1140

On the other hand, sharing accommodation with others is normally far cheaper than living alone, and this is a major advantage. Rent is cheaper as it is shared among everyone in the property, and heating and electricity bills are also lower for the same reason.

Furthermore, living with other people means you are *likely to have a more sociable lifestyle*. Of course, you can invite friends round when living alone but, in a shared house or flat, everybody else's friends come to visit too and you get to know more people. Perhaps more important than this, though, is that there is nearly always *someone around to chat with if you feel lonely*. Unlike someone who lives alone, you do not need to make arrangements to meet.

(4) Put closely related points together in the same paragraph.

In conclusion, *I feel that living alone is not the best option*. Humans are social animals, and I would always prefer to be around friends or family, despite how annoying they can occasionally be.

(5) Make sure your own personal opinion is clear in the conclusion.

What do we mean by an essay?

By an essay, we mean a short piece of writing that presents and discusses ideas on a particular topic, and reaches a conclusion

And who are essays usually written by?

Essays ... students at school, college or university

How does an essay normally start?

An essay ... with general information that introduces the topic of the essay

What should each main paragraph of an essay focus on?

Each ... a particular point, or aspect of the topic, that we want to discuss

How can we make certain our ideas are clear for the reader?

We can ... by illustrating them with examples

If we're making two points that are closely related, should we put them in the same paragraph? Yes, ...

How does an essay normally end?

An essay ... with our own personal conclusion on the topic

1141 **make out**

Do you think you could make out a person's facial expression from 100 metres away?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

straight away (right away)

If you discovered a leaking water pipe in your home, would you call for a plumber straight away (or right away) or try to fix the problem yourself?

If I ..., I'd ...

reliable

Who's the least reliable (or most unreliable) member of your family?

... is ... of my family

take in

When someone gives you directions to go somewhere, are you good at taking them in or do you quickly get confused? When ..., I'm good at ... ~
When ..., I quickly get confused

Is it common for people to be taken in by the claims of dishonest salesman and later discover they've been ripped off? Yes, ...

mummy

daddy

What do most young English children call their mum and dad? Most ... "Mummy" and "Daddy"

1142

manhood

womanhood

motherhood

What do the words "manhood", "womanhood" etc. mean? The words ... mean the state of being a man, the state of being a woman etc.

Does motherhood often change a woman's priorities in life? Yes, ...

last

If you had to, how long do you reckon you could last just on the food you have at home right now? If I had to, I reckon ...

flake

snowflake

Is every snowflake that falls from the sky unique? Yes, ...

absent

Are any members of this class absent today? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

be inclined

accumulate

attic

stuffy

chilly

Are people who live in houses inclined to accumulate a lot of useless junk in their attic? Yes, ...

If the room you were in was stuffy, would you be inclined to open a window even if it was chilly outside? Yes, if the ... ~ No, if the ...

1143

set fire to

arson

If somebody deliberately sets fire to a building, what crime are they guilty of? If ..., they're guilty of arson

go through

drought

If a country goes through a long period of drought, which industry is most seriously affected? If ..., the farming industry is ...

cool off

cool down

How long does it usually take you to cool off (or cool down) after you've lost your temper? It usually takes ...

hostile

hostility

cease

Are cats normally friendly or hostile towards other cats they've never encountered before? Cats are normally hostile ...

Can nations involved in a conflict sometimes be helped to cease hostilities by taking part in negotiations? Yes, ...

over and over again

time and time again

If you phone a friend for a chat but can't get through, do you keep calling over and over again, or just wait and call again later? If ..., I ...

Is there any film you've watched (or could watch) time and time again without getting bored? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

land up

Where would you land up if you turned left out of this building and followed the road to its end? If ..., I'd ...

stumble

Make a sentence with the verb "stumble", please. The athlete stumbled and almost fell. She was so nervous that she began to stumble over her words.

supplement**vitamin****mineral**

Do you supplement your diet by taking vitamins and minerals? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

trace

If you reported your car as stolen, would you expect the police to make an effort to trace it? Yes, if I ... ~ No, if I ...

comprehensive

Is there any subject you feel you have a comprehensive knowledge of? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

ledge

Why would it be foolish to keep a plant pot on a narrow ledge outside a window? It'd be ...

scowl

What am I doing? You're scowling

When do people scowl? People scowl when they're angry or in a bad mood, when they disapprove of something etc.

line up**sergeant**

Give me a sentence with "line up" in it, please. The sergeant told the soldiers to line up in three rows

nutrition

nutrient

fertilizer

Do you think you get adequate nutrition from the diet you eat?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

What does a farmer add to the soil if it lacks the nutrients needed to grow a certain crop?

A farmer adds fertilizer ...

junction

roundabout

Which type of road junction would you say was safer: a roundabout or a crossroads?

I'd say ...

Why?

harsh

Would you describe the winters in your country as harsh?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

1146

brehtaking

What's the most breathtaking place you've ever visited?

The most ...

Word pool 2: revision exercise

For each sentence below, choose one word from the word pool that fits correctly in the gap.

catalogue

debut

cellar

alien

pond

concrete

deodorant

rage

parade

bruise

feat

wolf

toddler

prey

density

- 1 The wine is stored down in our _____ as it stays fairly cool there even in the summer.
- 2 Nigel had seen this species of _____ several times before on his camping trips.
- 3 You should have seen Ronald when he was a little _____; he was so cute!

- 4 Winning that tennis competition twice is a major _____ for any professional player.
- 5 While waiting for its _____ to appear, this insect will remain completely still for many hours.
- 6 The comedy's about a friendly _____ that visits our planet on holiday and decides to stay.
- 7 The areas with the highest population _____ are on the west coast.
- 8 The price in your _____ is lower than in mine; I think you may have an old one.
- 9 Come and see the little _____ in the garden; it's even got fish in it!
- 10 Anna's _____ was a huge success, and her performances are continuing to improve.
- 11 When I heard what he'd done, the _____ I felt was incredible; I've never been so angry.
- 1147 12 I can't take part in the annual _____ this year because I'm away on business that weekend.
- 13 It's just a bad _____ luckily, but I thought I'd broken something at first.
- 14 At first, the new cinema looked good, but one year later, the _____ had turned grey and ugly.
- 15 I'm running out of _____, so could you get me some when you're at the chemist's, please?