



ENGLISH ASTIR
STEPPINGSTONE TO 7.0

Feedback - Global issues and opportunities

Writing Task 2



Student:**Score:**

Band	Task Response	Coherence and Cohesion	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
9	presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas	uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention	uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features	uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8	presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas	uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately	skillfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation	makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7	presents a clear position throughout the response	presents a clear central topic within each paragraph	uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation	uses a variety of complex structures
6	addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others	arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression	uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task	uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms
5	expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn	may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution	uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task	may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader



Sharpen Your Pencil

Cohesion Exercise: Combining and Connecting Sentences

Using Transitional Words and Phrases

By Richard Nordquist

Updated on June 13, 2021

The following exercise will give you an opportunity to apply the techniques for combining sentences effectively discussed in the article Cohesion Strategies: Transitional Words and Phrases. If you haven't practiced sentence combining before, you may also find it helpful to review Introduction to Sentence Combining.

Sentence-Combining Exercise



Combine the sentences in each set into *two* clear and concise sentences, eliminating any needless repetition. As you do so, add the transitional word or phrase wherever you think it fits best to show how one sentence relates to another. Remember that transitions are an important component of cohesion.

1. *Instead*

Retirement should be the reward for a lifetime of work. It is widely viewed as a sort of punishment. It is a punishment for growing old.

2. *Therefore*

Since the early years of this century, it has been known that viruses cause cancer in chickens. In more recent years viruses have been shown to cause cancer not only in chickens, but also in mice, cats, and even in some primates. It was a reasonable hypothesis that viruses might cause cancer in humans.

3. *In fact*

We do not seek solitude.

If we find ourselves alone for once, we flick a switch.

We invite the whole world in. The world comes in through the television screen.

4. *On the contrary*

We were not irresponsible.

Each of us should do something.

This thing would be of genuine usefulness to the world. We were trained to think that.

5. *However*

Little girls, of course, don't take toy guns out of their hip pockets.

They do not say "Pow, pow" to all their neighbors and friends.

The average well-adjusted little boy does this. If we gave little girls the six-shooters, we would soon have double the pretend body count.

6. *Indeed*

We know very little about pain.

What we don't know makes it hurt all the more.

There is ignorance about pain.

No form of illiteracy in the United States is so widespread. No form of illiteracy in the United States is so costly.

7. *Moreover*

Many of our street girls can be as vicious as any corporation president.

Many of our street girls can be as money-mad as any corporation president.

They can be less emotional than men. They can be less emotional in conducting acts of personal violence.

8. *For this reason*

The historical sciences have made us very conscious of our past.

They have made us conscious of the world as a machine.

The machine generates successive events out of foregoing ones.

Some scholars tend to look totally backward. They look backward in their interpretation of the human future.

9. *However*

Rewriting is something that most writers find they have to do.

They rewrite to discover what they have to say.

They rewrite to discover how to say it.

There are a few writers who do little formal rewriting.

They have the capacity and experience.

They create and review a large number of invisible drafts.

They create and review in their minds. They do this before they approach the page.

ANSWERS

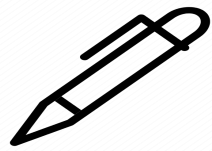
After you have completed the nine sets, compare your sentences with the examples below. Keep in mind that many effective combinations are possible, and in some cases, you may prefer your own sentences to the examples.

1. "Retirement should be the reward for a lifetime of work. *Instead*, it is widely viewed as a sort of punishment for growing old."
2. "Since the early years of this century, it has been known that viruses cause cancer in chickens. In more recent years viruses have been shown to cause cancer not only in chickens, but also in mice, cats, and even in some primates. Therefore, it was a reasonable hypothesis that viruses might cause cancer in humans..."
3. "We do not seek solitude. *In fact*, if we find ourselves alone for once, we flick a switch and invite the whole world in through the television screen,"
4. "We were not irresponsible. *On the contrary*, we were trained to think that each of us should do something that would be of genuine usefulness to the world,"
5. "Little girls, of course, don't take toy guns out of their hip pockets and say "Pow, pow" to all their neighbors and friends like average well-adjusted little boys. *However*, if we gave little girls the six-shooters, we would soon have double the pretend body count,"
6. "We know very little about pain and what we don't know makes it hurt all the more. *Indeed*, no form of illiteracy in the United States is so widespread or costly as ignorance about pain,"
7. "Many of our street girls can be as vicious and money-mad as any corporation president. *Moreover*, they can be less emotional than men in conducting acts of personal violence,"

8. "The historical sciences have made us very conscious of our past, and of the world as a machine generating successive events out of foregoing ones. *For this reason*, some scholars tend to look totally backward in their interpretation of the human future,"
9. "Rewriting is something that most writers find they have to do to discover what they have to say and how to say it. There are, *however*, a few writers who do little formal rewriting because they have the capacity and experience to create and review a large number of invisible drafts in their minds before they approach the page,"

SOURCE:

ThoughtCo



Sharpen Your Pencil

Practice Composing Effective Topic Sentences

By Richard Nordquist

Updated on March 18, 2019

Commonly appearing at (or near) the beginning of a paragraph, a topic sentence expresses the main idea of a paragraph. What usually follows a topic sentence are a number of supporting sentences that develop the main idea with specific details. This exercise offers practice in creating topic sentences that will attract the interest of your readers.

Each passage below is lacking a topic sentence but contains a series of sentences with specific examples of a single character trait:

1. patience
2. a frightful imagination
3. a love of reading



Your job is to complete each paragraph by creating an imaginative topic sentence that both identifies the particular character trait and creates enough interest to keep us reading. The possibilities, of course, are limitless.

1. Patience

For example, recently I began taking my two-year-old dog to obedience school. After four weeks of lessons and practice, she has learned to follow only three commands--sit, stand, and lie down--and even those she often gets confused. Frustrating (and costly) as this is, I continue to work with her every day. After dog school, my grandmother and I sometimes go grocery shopping. Inching along those aisles, elbowed by hundreds of fellow customers, backtracking to pick up forgotten items, and standing in the endless line at the checkout, I could easily grow frustrated and cranky. But through years of trying times, I have learned to keep my temper in check. Finally, after putting away the groceries, I might go out to a movie with my fiancée, to whom I have been engaged for three years. Layoffs, extra jobs, and problems at home have forced us to postpone our wedding date several times. Still, my patience has enabled me to cancel and reschedule our wedding plans again and again without fuss, fights, or tears.

2. A Frightful Imagination

For instance, when I was in kindergarten, I dreamed that my sister killed people with a television antenna and disposed of their bodies in the woods across the street from my house. For three weeks after that dream, I stayed with my grandparents until they finally convinced me that my sister was harmless. Not long afterward, my grandfather died, and that sparked new fears. I was so terrified that his ghost would visit me that I put two brooms across the doorway of my bedroom at night. Fortunately, my little trick worked. He never came back. More recently, I was terribly frightened after staying up late one night to watch *The Ring*. I lay awake until dawn clutching my cell phone, ready to ring 911 the moment that spooky little girl stepped out of my TV. Just thinking about it now gives me goosebumps.

3. Love of Reading

When I was a young girl, I would make a tent out of my blankets and read Nancy Drew mysteries late into the night. I still read cereal boxes at the breakfast table, newspapers while I am stopped at red lights, and gossip magazines while waiting in line at the supermarket. In fact, I'm a very talented reader. For example, I've mastered the art of talking on the phone while simultaneously reading Dean Koontz or Stephen King. But *what* I read doesn't matter all that much. In a pinch, I'll read junk mail, an old warranty, a furniture tag ("DO NOT REMOVE UNDER PENALTY OF LAW"), or even, if I'm extremely desperate, a chapter or two in a textbook.

Source:

ThoughtCo

Example Topic Sentences

1. My life may be a box full of frustrations, but learning how to overcome them has given me the gift of patience.
2. My family is convinced that I inherited my imagination from Edgar Allan Poe.
3. I envy you terribly because at this very moment you're doing what I have always loved doing more than anything else: you're reading.



Sharpen Your Pencil

Doctors in many countries say that people do not do enough physical exercise. What are the causes of this trend? How can the situation be improved?

Write at least 250 words

Sample Answer

Doctors around the world are **warning** us about the **lack of** exercise that many people are getting. Not doing enough exercise is related to our modern lifestyle, although there are some steps that can be taken that could lead to **improvements** in this situation.

One of the main reasons why people do not get enough exercise is because they do not have enough time. They have to get up early to go to school or work, and by the end of the day they are too tired to go to the gym or do some other kind of exercise. *Another factor is that,* even if they have time to work out, people have many more choices about what they do in their free time. Nowadays, it is so easy to watch a movie or some entertaining videos Online and, after a long tiring day, all someone wants to do is **sit back and relax** and **switch off their brains** with something inactive.

A lack of physical activity *leads to a range of serious problems, so it is important that this issue is solved. One possible solution is to* improve the balance between people's life and work. People normally live to work and have just enough free time to recover for the next day of work. Creating a **four-day work week** or reducing the **typical 9-5 working day** could be a way to deal with this. *In addition,* people need to **take personal responsibility. In other words,** they have to accept that regular exercise is a necessary part of good health, and they need to find a few minutes each day to do something **physically active**.

Overall, not getting exercise is terrible for a person's mental and physical health. Society and individuals need to change the way they work in order to allow everyone the chance to be active and as healthy as they can be. (315 words)



Linking words are in *italics*

Synonyms and advanced vocabulary are in **BOLD**

