

CONTINUOUS WRITING: 5 TO 7 PARAGRAPHS LONG

REMEMBER: The minimum length is 350 words. To get B and A bands, you DON'T NEED to write 600-1000 words! The more you write, the more mistakes you're likely to make. So, write briefly and precisely – straight to the point!

5 PARAGRAPHS (+- 370 words)

- Introduction (70)
- Topic Sentence 1 + Elaboration (80)
- Topic Sentence 2 + Elaboration (80)
- Topic Sentence 3 + Elaboration (80)
- Closing (60)

** Ideal setting for all types of CW
except for Narratives

7 PARAGRAPHS (+- 400 words)

- Introduction (50 words)
- Topic Sentence 1 + Elaboration (60)
- Topic Sentence 2 + Elaboration (60)
- Topic Sentence 3 + Elaboration (60)
- Topic Sentence 4 + Elaboration (60)
- Topic Sentence 5+ Elaboration (60)
- Closing (50)

© Adlina (teacheradlina@gmail.com)

Tell –versus Show

“She looked sad”

-VS-

“She looked like she was going to burst into
tears, lips quivering.”

© Adlina (teacheradlina@gmail.com)

SHOW ‘EM OFF!

1. Imagery – Sensory impressions for readers to imagine

- Sight : *The sky was getting darker.*
- Taste : *The ocean breeze tasted salty on my tongue.*
- Smell : *The fresh smell of the sea reminded me that I was still among the living.*
- Touch : *The tiny droplets of rain felt warm to my skin and I was sure then that I was indeed alive.*

2. Simile & Metaphor – Relating/ Comparing

- I was like a mad man who was turning crazier. (Simile)
- I was a mad man turning crazier with every passing minute. (Metaphor)

3. Hyperbole – to express strong feelings/ desperation

- I waited forever for the rescue team to find me.
- I felt like dying. Surely, it was torture for me to be there.

© Adlina (teacheradlina@gmail.com)

4. Personification – human qualities by non-human

- I recalled how the big wave swallowed my small fishing boat.
- My hair tickled my nose and I sneezed.

5. Irony – sarcasm/ opposite meaning

- “Great, I’ve caught a cold. Just what I need,” I groaned in frustration.

MAKE YOUR ESSAYS FLOW SMOOTHLY!

Use logical connectors:

Although... / Despite.../ Aside from.../
Instead of.../ However,.../ Furthermore,.../
In retrospect,.../ Nevertheless,.../
Regardless,.../ Still,.../ Even so,.../ In
addition,.../ In contrast,.../ Therefore,...

Include dialogues

:Only dialogues by one character should be in each paragraph. When other character speaks, put their dialogues in a new paragraph each.

And sequence connectors to show order of events/ elaboration:
and / then/ next / after.../ after that/ at the same time/ later/ until then/ finally/ lastly

© Adlina (teacheradlina@gmail.com)

Tell	Show
Jamal was feeling tired <i>(How do people know he's tired?)</i>	Jamal appeared tired and worn, as if the pace of his life and the battering that came with it drained all his energy.
I was caught in a bad traffic jam. <i>(How bad could it be?)</i>	Cars were moving inch by inch at a snail's pace. Drivers were honking impatiently here and there, eager to rush home after a long day at work.
It is a beautiful day. <i>(What does that mean? In what way?)</i>	A soft breeze blows in my garden and I enjoy listening to the rustling of leaves. They seem to be whispering in a strange language as the branches sway and wave gently in the sun.
The house looked old. <i>(Are you sure? What's the proof?)</i>	The house slouched in a yard choked with weeds, its paint faded and flaking, the lace curtains in its windows yellowed with age.

© Adlina (teacheradlina@gmail.com)

Tell	Show
Hassan thought Salmah was acting strangely. <i>(How different is it from usual?)</i>	
It was very dark and eerie inside. <i>(It's always dark at night, though... What makes it eerie?)</i>	
The food was delicious, especially the pizza. <i>(What sets the pizza apart from the others?)</i>	
I thought the house was haunted. <i>(What makes you think so?)</i>	
Sheila's cat is intelligent. <i>(How do we know if an animal is clever or not at first glance?)</i>	

© Adlina (teacheradlina@gmail.com)

WRITING ADVICE

- Don't rush into writing. When you're allowed to look at the questions, start organising your thoughts.
- Highlight key points on the question paper.
- Don't leave one section incomplete to start on the next section. You MAY forget to go back and end it.
- Don't be too ambitious to include too many phrasal verbs/ idiomatic expressions. When in **doubt**, DO NOT USE THEM. Lower your ego.
- Focus on good grammar. Don't underestimate the power of simple sentences and language style. With good grammar, you can still get a C band.

© Adlina (teacheradlina@gmail.com)

PHRASES YOU SHOULD NOT USE

- In the pink (of health) ✗
- Fellow friends ✗
- Lend (me) your ears ✗



© Adlina (teacheradlina@gmail.com) // www.helloadlina.my