



Sample Compositions

English Download B1 Student's Book

1 Family & Friends (Task 8, page 15)

My best friend

Can you imagine standing on a stage and performing in front of a crowd of people? Well, that's what my best friend Hannah does every weekend. Her hobby is singing and she's part of a band.

Despite only being 17, she has an amazing singing voice. She sounds better than any of the singers on the radio. Last year Hannah performed at the Summer Park Festival in our town and over 200 people watched her sing.

Hannah is an outgoing person who is always the centre of attention. When I have a problem, she's always there for me. She is kind and supportive and, as she's two years older than me, she's also very protective, too. She is slim and has long, dark hair, and everyone says she's very beautiful. She also has a great sense of humour.

All in all, I'm happy I have someone who is like an older sister to me: I hope we will always be friends.

2 House & Home (Task 7, page 27)

Sally threw her bike on the ground and ran towards the house. Black clouds had started to gather in the sky and it was beginning to rain. The wind was getting stronger and she found it difficult to open the front door. The previous day, Sally had heard on the weather forecast that a hurricane was approaching.

When she got in the house, she found her parents waiting for her. They looked calm, but she could sense they were worried. Her mum gathered some supplies while she watched the local news for updates about the storm. As soon as they were ready, they headed out to the storm shelter.

Just as they closed the shelter door, the hurricane hit. Sally felt relieved they were safe, but also very frightened. The winds sounded like a train and the storm lasted for five hours. All they could do was wait for it to pass.

After the storm died down, they went outside. Fortunately, their house hadn't been hit too badly. Now Sally could relax. The storm was over.

3 Free Time (Task 5, page 41)

Hi Jane,

Thanks so much for inviting me on the cycling trip. I'd love to go. It sounds great! The weather is supposed to be really nice over the next few weeks, so camping in her tent would be a great idea. I'd prefer to camp anyway because it's much more fun. How about we bring some food along and have a barbeque outside, too?

I've never ridden a horse before and to tell you the truth I'm a bit scared about trying. How about taking a walk along the river on Sunday morning instead?

I think we should take some camping supplies with us; things like sleeping bags, a first aid kit and a torch. We will also need some food and drink, and spare clothes.

I'm really looking forward to the trip!

Love,

Lisa



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4 Education & Learning (Task 5, page 53)

Students have very different opinions about taking a gap year. Some people say it gives you the chance to learn about life, while others say once you leave the classroom, it can be difficult to go back.

The most important advantage of taking a gap year is that you get the chance to grow before entering university. In school, you learn about being a good student, but you learn very little about real life. In addition, taking a gap year and going abroad gives you the opportunity to learn about other cultures and lifestyles.

However, there are also disadvantages. The main disadvantage is that spending a long time away from a classroom can make it difficult to return. Moreover, a year off will also put you a year behind your friends. Lastly, gap years can be expensive if you don't work during the time.

In my opinion, taking a gap year isn't for everyone, but neither is going straight into university. The important thing is that you make the right decision for you.

5 The City (Task 7, page 67)

The best city for young people

Are you someone who enjoys outdoor activities? Well, come and visit Newbury, the popular city where I live. There are lots of things for the active young person to do.

First of all, we have the biggest skateboard park in the UK where teenagers go every weekend to practise their skateboarding skills. This is also where the annual skateboarding competition takes place. At the weekends in the summer, friends also meet at the big outdoor swimming pool which has fantastic water slides.

There are also plenty of other places to go too. We have a huge amusement park that has some of the most thrilling rides in Europe. Teenagers go here about once a month and spend the whole day there. There are also some wonderful open-air cafés next to the river where young people like to meet for coffee and watch the boats passing.

In short, my city has got lots of things for young people to enjoy and many places to go with friends to have a good time.

6 Food & Drink (Task 9, page 79)

The best seafood in the city

With a wide variety of fresh fish, you can't beat *Little Fish*, the best seafood restaurant in Brighton.

It's small but bright, and as you enter there is a huge tank filled with fish. When I went in, it was rather busy, but the waiters were very polite and offered us a drink while we waited for our table. There was such a relaxing atmosphere with candles on every table.

There was a wide selection of fish to choose from on the menu and nearly all of the recipes sounded delicious. I started with a tasty fish soup, followed by sea bass in a lemon sauce! The fried whitebait was also delicious. The downside was the price; the food was quite expensive, and also the service was very slow.

My family and I enjoyed our meal and I would definitely recommend the restaurant to anyone who loves well-cooked, fresh seafood. Although this isn't a restaurant you could go to regularly because of the high prices, it's perfect for special occasions.



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7 Mind & Body (Task 8, page 93)

Dear Lucy,

It was nice to get your letter, but I'm sorry to hear you have to stay in hospital for another two weeks. You poor thing! I know what it's like as I had the same problem in hospital last year.

The best advice I can give you about the boredom is to buy some magazines or books from the hospital shop or ask your mum to bring you an MP3 player so that you'll have something to read or listen to.

If I were you, I'd also try making friends with other people on your ward. It will be good to talk to them because they're experiencing the same thing as you.

Have you thought about using earplugs in order to get some sleep when it's noisy? It might help.

Why don't you ask your mum to bring you some food from home? You'll feel better after that.

Don't worry too much; it won't last forever. Before you know it, you will be home!

Anyway, I hope my letter helps.

Love,

Andrea

8 The Natural World (Task 7, page 105)

Jake wasn't sure he could do it, but he was going to try. A strong, ice-cold wind was blowing and it was beginning to snow heavily. If he and his friend were going to make it back down the mountain before night, they were going to have to leave now.

It had been a bright sunny morning with clear blue skies, so they had decided to trek up the mountain to take photographs of the view. However, after a few hours the weather began to change.

Now, the temperature was reaching zero. The snow was covering the ground very quickly and they couldn't see the path. They started walking down the mountain. Their bags were heavy and they were only wearing thin coats.

Eventually they came to a road. The sun was beginning to set and they were exhausted. However, as they continued walking, bright lights suddenly lit up the road. It was a 4x4 Jeep.

Later when they reached the camp, they were relieved that the mountain rescue had found them in time. They wouldn't have made it back without the help!

9 Transport (Task 8, page 119)

Dear Editor,

I have just read an article in your newspaper about the fact that fewer people are using the city trains because tickets are expensive and the main station is dark and dirty. I agree that the situation needs to be improved and I would like to make some suggestions.

Firstly, the price of the tickets should be reduced at certain times. This would encourage more passengers to use the trains, so more money would be collected. Secondly, if passengers were able to buy a weekly or monthly ticket at a reduced price, it would make using the trains cheaper.

In addition, the main train station needs to be better lit. When it is dark, passengers do not feel safe. Finally, there are no litter bins, which means that rubbish is dropped on the floor. If the station had some litter bins, it would not be so dirty.

I believe we can get more people using city trains if officials act on some of my suggestions.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Smith



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10 Technology (Task 7, page 131)

More people are now choosing to use mobile phones for photography. In my opinion, many phones have a camera that is as good as a digital camera.

The main reason people prefer using a mobile phone camera is that they are easier to carry than a bigger camera. People always have their mobile phones with them and therefore they are always ready to take a picture.

Another reason why so many people use mobile phones to take photographs is that they are more convenient. You can put photographs online really quickly. With a digital camera you have to download them to your computer first, which takes longer. Furthermore, most mobile phones now have touchscreens, which makes it easier to point and shoot.

However, some people prefer using digital cameras because they have more features, like a better zoom, and some of them have better image quality. Moreover, you can print a digital camera photograph in any size and the quality of the picture remains excellent.

To sum up, using a mobile phone to take photos is easier and more convenient, but I believe people will still want to buy and own digital cameras as well.

11 Entertainment (Task 7, page 145)

The Local Youth Centre

Introduction

The aim of this report is to describe the local youth centre, including the activities and facilities on offer, the opening times, and to recommend any changes.

Range of activities

Teenagers can do a variety of activities from drama workshops to dance classes and art classes. There's also a cinema club that meets every Tuesday evening. All activities are popular

Facilities

Facilities at the centre are adequate. There is a snack bar with a range of hot and cold food and drinks, and also a games room with billiards and table tennis. The toilets are clean and there are also toilets for the disabled.

Opening times

The youth centre is open Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 9 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 9 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm.

Recommendations

I recommend that a stage is built and a karaoke machine with a microphone and speakers is added so there is a wider choice of entertainment activities. The stage can also be used for performances by those following the drama workshops.

12 Sport (Task 6, page 157)

Dear Mr Jackson,

I am writing to request some more information about the volunteer position at Fun Sports Holidays, which I saw advertised recently in a magazine. I am very interested in volunteering. My favourite sports are water sports, including wind surfing. I've been windsurfing ever since I was 10 years old and successfully taught my brother and some of his friends to windsurf last summer.

First of all, I would like to know whether you are looking for volunteers to work in Italy. I would be very interested in going there as I can speak some Italian.

Secondly, would you be able to tell me whether or not sports equipment is provided?

Finally, I would like to ask approximately how much a return flight from London to the resort would be?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Tina Hutchens