



# SAMPLE COMPOSITIONS

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### 1 It's personal! (page 10)

Dear Carly,

Thanks for all your news. It sounds like you're really busy at the moment, so I'm happy you asked me to help you with your class project.

I'm going to tell you about my aunt Kerry. She's my mom's younger sister and she's great. She's blond and is always smiling. As soon as anyone arrives at her home, she gives them a big hug. I love spending time with her because she's always cheerful and fun to be with. Another reason is that she's a fantastic cook, and I look forward to seeing what wonderful dishes she's made when we go for lunch.

Unfortunately, she moved to Italy a few years ago, so I don't see her as often as I would like to. She likes it there, though. She says Italian food is better than American food! I hope that I'll be able to visit her soon because I really miss her.

I hope this has helped. Let me know how your project goes.

Love,

Chloe

### 2 Life's Great Mysteries (page 16)

When Amy opened the door of the haunted house, she was astonished by what she saw. It was getting dark outside, so she couldn't be sure, but it looked like a ghost!

Amy had been hearing stories about the haunted house for as long as she could remember. She had never had the courage to come here, though, until today. Looking into the hall, Amy saw a young girl dressed in white. She looked at Amy, then turned and started walking slowly up the stairs. On the fourth stair, she stopped and looked at Amy again. "She wants me to follow her," she thought.

Amy walked nervously up the stairs and saw the girl go into one of the rooms. Amy followed her, but ... where was she? The young girl had disappeared! Just then, Amy heard a noise. She used the light from her cell phone and saw that there was a tiny white kitten in the corner of the room. "How did you get in here?" she asked.

Amy took the kitten home with her and realized that she would never have found it if she hadn't followed the ghost upstairs.

### 3 The World of Sports (page 25)

Participating in sports should be an important part of everyone's life, and for a lot of people, it doesn't matter if you win or lose. I agree with them because there are many benefits to taking part.

In the first place, sports often involve some type of competition. Competing against other people helps you to try harder and become better at your chosen sport. It also makes things interesting; it's exciting to see who will win in the end. However, this doesn't mean that the person or team that loses doesn't benefit from taking part.

Furthermore, sports are important because they help you keep fit and stay healthy. It's a good form of exercise, so even if you don't win, it benefits your health.

On the other hand, some people are professional athletes. Winning is obviously very important for them; more important than just taking part. They wouldn't last long in their chosen sport if they didn't win or help their teams to win.

In conclusion, there are numerous benefits to participating in sports and, for most people, winning is not the most important thing.



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## 4 Shopping Therapy (page 32)

### The kind of shopping that teenagers love

Have you ever spent a wonderful day walking around stores with your friends, looking at what's available? It seems that it's a common thing for teenagers to do on the weekend.

On Saturdays, shopping centers are full of teenagers looking at clothes, footwear, and technology. Some of us love finding out what's new in the world of cell phones and computers. Others want to see which styles in the clothing stores or shoe stores are going to be popular. Very often we don't actually spend any money at all.

Why is window shopping so important to us? I think the main reason is that it gives us a feeling of independence. We are usually with our parents when we buy something because they are the ones who pay for our purchases. However, window shopping allows us to spend time with our friends and get their opinion on what suits us. It doesn't really matter that we often go home without buying anything.

All in all, window shopping is one kind of shopping that teenagers love.

## 5 The Environment (page 40)

Cyclists are becoming more and more common in cities these days. In general, I think this is a good thing.

First of all, there are environmental benefits. If more people use bicycles instead of cars, there will be less air pollution. There will also be less traffic on the roads and, as a consequence, fewer traffic jams. This is beneficial for those who live and work in cities.

Second, cycling is a good form of exercise, so the cyclist's health will benefit. For short journeys, it is better for someone to cycle than to drive a car or ride on a bus.

However, some people argue that riding a bicycle in a city is unsafe. They say that there is too much traffic and, as a result, cyclists might have an accident. There is some truth in this, but if cyclists use bike paths where possible, wear a helmet, and are careful when cycling, they should be safe.

In conclusion, I think that riding bicycles in the city is generally a good thing, and that city councils should encourage people to do it by making sure cyclists stay safe.

## 6 Crime (page 48)

Some people argue that the parents of children under 16 who break the law should be punished instead of the children. I don't think this is right.

First of all, children can tell the difference between right and wrong, even when they are under 16. If they commit a crime, there should be consequences for them. Otherwise, they may break the law again.

In addition, some people say that parents should be taught to control their children's behavior. However, as children grow up, their parents will not always be with them to control it. The child must learn to control their own behavior.

It is important for parents to teach their children the difference between right and wrong from an early age. Children should realize that if they do something wrong or commit a crime, they will be punished for it.

Although parents have a responsibility to teach their children that breaking the law is wrong, punishing them if their children commit a crime is not the answer. Each individual must take responsibility for their actions and face the consequences if necessary.



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## 7 The Media (page 55)

### The online student magazine

#### Introduction

The aim of this report is to explain why an online version of the weekly student magazine should be created and to offer some suggestions for new features to include.

#### Online version

Technology is developing fast, and more students are using their cell phones or tablets to stay up to date with what is going on. The print version of the student magazine is not doing as well as it used to, and it is time to create an online version. Not only would this be popular with students, but it would also be cheaper to produce.

#### New features

An online version would allow us to include some new features. Video interviews, for example, would be an interesting feature to add. Another new feature would be interactivity. Students could 'like' articles or post comments about them. This feedback would help us to decide what to include in future issues of the magazine to ensure it remains popular.

#### Recommendation

I recommend that we create an online version as soon as possible to ensure that the student magazine does not die out.

## 8 A Hard Day's Work (page 62)

Dear Mr. Menendez,

I am writing to apply for the position of winter holiday assistant at the post office that I saw advertised yesterday.

I am an 18-year-old high school graduate, and I am currently taking a gap year before starting college next September. My mother owns a coffee shop, and I have been working there on the weekends and over summer vacation for the last two years. Although it is only small, it gets very busy, and so I am used to working under pressure.

In my spare time, I enjoy reading and walking. Early every morning and again in the evening, I help my neighbor by taking her dog, Bonzo, out for a walk.

I would enjoy the challenge of working at the post office in December, when it must get very busy. Since I am traveling abroad in January, I will be available to work all of December.

I looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Susan Nguyen

## 9 Getting Away (page 71)

### Sensational summer!

Would you like to travel, meet new people, and improve your English all at the same time? If so, then Bay Institute is the summer school for you!

Located in San Francisco, California, you can spend ten days living with an American family while you attend a language school. It's perfect because you speak and listen to English all the time, so you improve quickly. You also get to eat homemade food. I didn't like all the dishes, but it was interesting to see what Americans eat.

Bay Institute is a great school because you do much more than just sit in a classroom. It combines traditional lessons in the morning with sightseeing trips to local places in the afternoon. You also meet people from lots of different countries. I made some good friends, and we keep in touch by email.

The only thing I didn't like was the weather! I'm used to high temperatures in the summer and so I found San Francisco pretty cold. If you are prepared for it, though, it doesn't really matter.

I recommend Bay Institute summer school for anyone who wants to improve their English while experiencing the U.S.



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## 10 Where on earth? (page 78)

Some people who go to live in a foreign country never learn the local language, no matter how long they stay there. I think this is wrong, and that people moving to another country should make an effort to learn the language that is spoken there.

First of all, learning the language will help them to communicate with the local people. It will be easier for them to make friends and fit in if they can speak the language. It will also show that they are interested in and committed to staying in the country.

Second, they will be at a disadvantage if they don't learn the language. They will not be able to follow a conversation and may feel lonely if they can't understand what other people around them are saying.

To sum up, although some people say that they are too old to learn another language, or that they don't really need to be able to speak the other language, I think they will be happier and more settled if they do.

## 11 High-Tech World (page 86)

### High-tech workouts

Would you rather jog around the park to stay in shape, or would you like to belong to a gym with all the latest fitness machines? I enjoy working out in a well-equipped gym, and I'm lucky that there's one just around the corner from my home.

First of all, I love exercising in a gym because there is always lots of company. It's an ideal place to meet people who have the same interest in physical fitness. If you go at the same time of the day, you will usually see the same people and that makes it easy to say hi and start a conversation. If you exercise at home or run around the park, you are unlikely to meet anyone new.

Apart from that, using the latest equipment gets results more quickly. In addition, the trainers who work at the gym are very happy to show you how to use the machines and suggest exercises to achieve the results you want. All in all, my favorite way to stay in shape is to work out in the gym near my house.

## 12 Happy to help! (page 93)

Dear Mayor,

I have just read an article in the local paper about the problem of stray dogs in our city. They are a danger to pedestrians, and they have recently caused a number of car accidents. It is a worrying situation, and I would like to suggest the following measures.

First, money could be raised to help the local charity that looks after stray dogs. If the organization had more money, they would be able to take the dogs off the streets and the city would become a safer place. Furthermore, if the stray dogs are not on the street, then there won't be any more puppies born, which will help the problem in the long term.

Second, people could be encouraged to adopt a stray dog. The health care expenses of having the dog could be covered for the first year, for example. If people gave a stray dog a home, then this would help the situation.

I hope that you will take some action to improve the situation and make our city streets a safer place to be.

Sincerely,

Dennis Kasparov