

What Are Common IELTS Writing Mistakes?

Worksheet

Common IELTS Writing mistakes include repetitive vocabulary, grammatical errors, informal language, poor paragraph organization, and failing to address the task directly.

Questions

1. Which is NOT a common IELTS Writing mistake?
 - A) Repeating key terms without variation
 - B) Using overly complex vocabulary correctly
 - C) Writing informally or using slang
 - D) Failing to address all parts of the task
2. What's wrong with: 'Many people think the internet is good. The internet helps people learn. The internet connects people.'?
 - A) Grammatical errors
 - B) Off-topic ideas
 - C) Excessive word repetition without variation
 - D) Poor sentence structure
3. Which tone is appropriate for IELTS Writing?
 - A) Very casual, like texting a friend
 - B) Formal, academic, impersonal
 - C) Emotional and opinionated
 - D) Creative and narrative-heavy
4. You discuss sports in an essay about 'Benefits of technology.' This is...
 - A) Excellent—shows broad thinking
 - B) Good—adds variety
 - C) Wrong—off-topic and damages coherence
 - D) Acceptable—if it mentions technology
5. Identify and fix: 'The problem with social media is that social media is bad. People use social media too much.'
6. Correct this informal tone: 'Honestly, like, education is super important for kids to get good jobs and stuff.'
7. Fix the organization issue: 'Technology is great. I like sports. Climate change is serious. Learning languages helps.'
8. Define: What is the most common IELTS Writing mistake?
9. Define: Does informal language hurt your score?
10. Define: How do you check if you're off-topic?

Answer Key

1. B) Using overly complex vocabulary correctly — Using complex vocabulary correctly is actually a strength. The other three are common costly mistakes.
2. C) Excessive word repetition without variation — 'Internet' and 'people' are repeated multiple times — classic mistake that kills lexical range marks.
3. B) Formal, academic, impersonal — IELTS Writing requires formal or semi-formal academic tone — not casual, not overly emotional, and supported by evidence.
4. C) Wrong—off-topic and damages coherence — Off-topic content directly damages Task Achievement and Coherence & Cohesion marks, regardless of quality.
5. Problem: extreme repetition of 'social media' and vague 'bad' Fix: 'Social media presents serious challenges. Its overuse leads to addiction and mental health issues.' Technique: use pronouns (it, this), synonyms, or restructure
6. Remove informal markers: 'like', 'super', 'stuff', 'honestly' Rephrase: 'Education is essential for children to acquire professional qualifications and career opportunities.' Keep academic formal tone throughout
7. Problem: no connection between ideas, each sentence is isolated Solution: group related ideas, add transitions: 'Technology and language learning facilitate global communication. However, we must address climate change and promote healthier lifestyles.'
8. Repetition of key words and ideas instead of using synonyms, pronouns, or varied phrasing.
9. Yes — IELTS Writing requires formal or semi-formal academic tone. Contractions and slang cost marks.
10. Reread the question and check if every paragraph directly supports your thesis and answers the prompt.

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