

IELTS Writing Correction Sample: Letter & Essay (Detailed feedback)

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

During a recent plane journey, you sat next to a businessman who owns a chain of restaurants. You talked to him and he suggested that you should contact him about a possible job in one of his restaurants.

Write a letter to this businessman. In your letter

- ***remind him when and where you met***
- ***tell him what kind of job you are interested in***
- ***say why you think you would be suitable for the job***

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear ,

Dear ~~Tom~~ Mr Smith,

My name is Edmond Stafford, ~~and~~ we met on a flight from Osaka to Hong Kong ~~of with~~ Peach Airlines on ~~the~~ 1st of July, ~~we arrived at arriving in~~ Hong Kong at 3pm, ~~and we~~ We sat next to each other, ~~we~~ talked during the flight and ~~we~~ exchanged our ~~name~~ business cards. I ~~believe~~ hope you ~~will~~ remember who I am ~~as you suggested I contact you regarding a job in one of your restaurants~~. Today I am writing to express my interest in ~~the a~~ position in the chain of your restaurants.

You ~~have~~ mentioned ~~about~~ your chain of restaurants and ~~that~~ you would like to expand it and use more information technology ~~for you~~ to manage them easily, especially the inventory and point of sales. As I told you during the flight, I am an IT expert, so I am particularly interested in ~~the an~~ IT system development ~~job project which can to~~ help you in these two areas.

I am a suitable person for you because I have 10 years of system development experience, specialising in point of sales systems for supermarkets and convenient stores. I believe my skills and experience can help you to set up and customise a robust point of sales system for your chain of restaurants. We can discuss this further face-to-face, and I am available anytime next week, you can call me ~~by the through my~~ contact information to ~~decide set~~ a date. I look forward to hearing from you ~~soon~~.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Edmond Stafford.

Word count: 229

DETAILED FEEDBACK - LETTER

Band Criteria	Band	Remarks (refer to public band descriptors)
Task Achievement	6	You addressed all the points of the task and I feel the potential for a 7 here but there were areas of inconsistent tone for a business letter that would probably make this a 6
Coherence and Cohesion	7	Each paragraph had a purpose and you kept the flow clear and logical. Cohesive devices are probably not present enough to push up to an 8.
Lexical Resource	7	The vocabulary used was good and generally appropriate although there were some mistakes with prepositions that would make an 8 harder to reach.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	6	Generally the grammar was fine although there was a tense mistake and missed opportunity to use participle clauses that reduce the range of grammar being used

Concluding remarks

The following remarks, observations and corrections are based purely on the attached task and using public access IELTS Writing Band Descriptors for guidance.

See more: https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2018-01/IELTS_task_1_Writing_band_descriptors.pdf

Paragraph 1: Firstly, in a formal letter to a prospective employer, it is unlikely that you can refer to them by their given name, particularly if you need to remind them of your name in the very first sentence. This is an error of tone. When introducing oneself, either make it a sentence or join with “and” to help with flow. We fly “with” and airline rather than refer to the flight “of” an airline. I break up the sentence at this point. The first sentence sets the time and place. The second deals with the content of the first meeting. Note the ellipsis I introduce in the second sentence. Knowing which pronouns and auxiliaries you can omit without affecting grammar accuracy is a useful skill to develop. “Believe” is too pushy for this letter. You are not the person of authority in this dynamic as you are asking for a job. Better to say you “hope” they remember you. I also added the reference to this letter being the businessman's idea, as per the task, as it is important for making the need for the letter clear.

Paragraph 2: The verb “mention” should be in the past simple as it refers to a past event already talked about: the flight conversation. The verb takes no preposition. “Mention” here also functions as a reporting verb, so use that to introduce the reported clause. In the last sentence, avoid “the” as the job is not yet defined. The noun “project” fits better here, especially as you will use “job” in the following paragraph. Using “to” allows for an infinitive of purpose in the last part.

Paragraph 3: I am a suitable person for you because I have 10 years of system development experience, specialising in point of sales systems for supermarkets and convenient stores. I believe my skills and experience can help you to set up and customise a robust point of sales system for your chain of restaurants. We can discuss this further face-to-face, and I am available anytime next week, you can call me ~~by the~~ through my contact information to ~~decide~~ set a date. I look forward to hearing from you ~~soon~~.

This final part read far better and I'm inclined to think this part relates more to your actual experience and so is more familiar. If so, this shows in the lack of mistakes. "through my" was the best way to express the idea in question. An alternative could have been "contact me via the email in my attached CV." "Setting" a date is the common expression and finally "soon" sounds like putting pressure on the recipient. This is another issue of tone. The final one is signing off as "Edmond" instead of "Edmond Stafford" for a job application letter.

Conclusion: Overall the language was good and well-organised but unlikely to beyond a 7 in any category for the reasons above. However, broader, more accurate grammar would undoubtedly help your chances.

Band Score Estimate: 6.5

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Today more and more tourists are visiting places where conditions are difficult, such as the Sahara desert or the Antarctic.

What are the benefits and disadvantages for tourists who visit such places?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

~~Recently, Nowadays~~ it seems to be boring for people to go to travel ~~in-to~~ some locations where we used to go, e.g. Japan ~~or~~ Europe. People would like to have some exciting experiences ~~in on~~ their trip, so they choose places like the Sahara desert or places ~~where that~~ ordinary people cannot even name ~~them~~. These places ~~are using having have~~ tough conditions. Therefore, there must be some good things and bad things if we travel in these places.

From an optimistic viewpoint, people would like to travel ~~in-to~~ these extraordinary places to experience something different, usually the things they see or try in these locations are unique; they cannot find them in cities with tall buildings. For example, the ~~arctic~~ light in the Antarctic ~~area~~ ~~regions~~. People who ~~saw have seen~~ them all ~~said say~~ it ~~was is~~ a once in a lifetime experience and they will not forget it till they die. And indeed, seeing these special sceneries is really unforgettable and no other places in the world have them. Besides sceneries, people can also experience some very different lifestyles ~~s~~ and culture which they have never seen ~~when-if~~ they live in ~~a~~ city.

However, there is also a bad side if people travel in these places. As the conditions are tough in these areas, ~~e.g.~~ they may experience extreme temperatures. People who are used to ~~a~~ city lifestyle may not know how to deal with them. In some severe cases, people may need immediate rescue, but as these areas are usually not ordinary residential areas ~~s~~, it is not easy for any ~~rescue teams~~ ~~emergency services~~ to ~~go for rescue access them~~. ~~And~~ It is very difficult to ~~ask for get~~ help from other people as there is no one around.

~~As a~~ In conclusion, it is necessary for people ~~have~~ to understand the risks before they visit these places, and after thorough consideration, if they still want to go, they have to make sure they get very well-prepared and go at their own risk.

Word count: 318

DETAILED FEEDBACK - ESSAY

Band Criteria	Band	Remarks (refer to public band descriptors)
Task Achievement	5	The task barely addresses the task as it could be argued that only one advantage is given: experience new things. The task asks for advantages; so more than one. Similarly, disadvantages centre around temperature extremes and their effects. This may be because the task was focussed too much on the two examples given in the task rather than difficult places in general
Coherence and Cohesion	7	Organisation and paragraph topics were clear and sentences were easy to follow.
Lexical Resource	6	There was some good vocabulary but mistakes in word choice elsewhere as well as a lack of substitution and synonyms detract from this.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	6	There were quite a few grammar errors and some made it hard to follow the sentence. Others were simply inappropriate tense choice.

Concluding remarks

The following remarks, observations and corrections are based purely on the attached task and using public access IELTS Writing Band Descriptors for guidance.

See more: https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2018-01/IELTS_task_2_Writing_band_descriptors.pdf

Paragraph 1: The word “recently” invites the present perfect whereas “nowadays” allows for present simple and present continuous for current events. “Or” shows that the two countries are two possible examples. The correct collocation is “on a trip”, not “in”. The next clause in this second sentence is a relative clause about people so “that” (or “who”) is correct, not “where”. Also, as the is the relative pronoun “that” we do not need the subsequent pronoun “them”. In the final sentence the verb choice makes no sense. Present simple is a better choice for a factual statement.

Paragraph 2: “Travel in” denotes within the destination, but we discuss journeys to the destination. Arctic to describe the Antarctic is contradictory. Better to simply refer to “light” and let the reference to the Antarctic regions help describe the light. “regions” for a geographic area is more appropriate. The next sentence was all in past simple with no reference to when this is supposed to have happened. If it was a personal experience, the context did not make that clear. For that reason, better to make a general statement with present simple and perfect. The lifestyles must be plural in the last sentence since you refer to “some”. Also you form a first conditional with can, so use “if” to complete it. The noun “city” needs the indefinite article.

Paragraph 3: In the first sentence you are not giving examples, but a consequence so no “eg”. The noun “city” needs the indefinite article. In the final sentence the word rescue is used 3 times. This is a perfect time to show a breadth of vocabulary with synonyms. Also we cannot “go for rescue”. “get help” is more appropriate for emergencies than “ask for”.

Paragraph 4: “In conclusion” is the standard phrase to use. “Have to” is not needed given the use of “it is necessary”. This final paragraph is more advice to the traveller than a summary of your points.

Conclusion: The task response had potential, but the main areas were underdeveloped whilst relatively avoidable mistakes in vocab and tense choice push the overall down. Next time be sure to give clear multiple points if the task asks for them in plural forms like advantages and disadvantages.

Band Score Estimate: 6.0