

3 a) Read the article and label the paragraphs with the correct headings. What is the writer’s opinion on the topic? Finally, replace the topic sentences in the main body paragraphs with alternative ones.

- arguments against
- opinion
- arguments for
- present topic

Did you know the boat was one of the first forms of transport? A hundred years ago, the only way to make a journey across the sea was by boat. Nowadays, however, when it is possible to fly from one continent to another in the space of a few hours, is there any reason to travel by boat?

Although the boat is a rather old-fashioned way of travelling, it has certain advantages. **To begin with**, boats are usually more comfortable than planes or cars. Instead of staying in your seat for the whole journey, you can go for a walk on the deck, eat in a restaurant, or even go shopping. Having more space to move around makes a long journey much more pleasant. **Furthermore**, boats are often cheaper than other forms of travel. **For example**, a boat ticket usually costs less than a plane ticket. **Finally**, boats are a safe alternative to cars and planes. There are fewer accidents at sea than in the air or on the roads.

**However**, travelling by boat does have its disadvantages. It usually takes much longer than other forms of travel. **As a result**, it can be more tiring. **In addition**, boat trips can be very unpleasant when the weather is bad or the sea is rough, making journeys uncomfortable or even frightening.

**All things considered**, although there are some disadvantages to travelling by boat, I believe it is a very enjoyable experience. Journeys may take longer, but if you have time to spare, you can take advantage of the many facilities which boats have to offer and enjoy a pleasant voyage.



## Para 1

.....  
.....  
.....

## Para 2

.....  
.....  
.....

## Para 3

.....  
.....  
.....

## Para 4

.....  
.....  
.....

## Useful expressions and linking words/phrases

- **to list and add points:** In the first place, To start/begin with, Secondly, Thirdly, Finally, In addition (to this), Furthermore, Moreover, Besides, etc.
- **to introduce or list advantages:** The main/first/most important advantage of..., One/Another/An additional advantage of..., One point of view in favour of..., It is often suggested/believed/argued that..., Some/Many people suggest/feel argue that..., Some/Many people are in favour of /are convinced that... etc.
- **to introduce or list disadvantages:** The main/most important disadvantage/drawback of..., One/Another/An additional disadvantage of..., One point/argument against..., Some/Many people are against... , etc.
- **to introduce examples/reasons/results:** for example/instance, such as, like, in particular, therefore, for this reason, because, as, since, as a result, etc.
- **to show contrast:** On the other hand, However, still, but, Nonetheless, Nevertheless, Although, Even though, Despite/In spite of (the fact that), etc.
- **to introduce a conclusion:** In conclusion, To conclude/sum up, All in all, Finally, Lastly, All things considered, Taking everything into account/consideration, etc.

b) Read the article again and fill in the blanks below. Then, using expressions from the box on the right, talk about the pros and cons of travelling by boat.

## FOR

## Arguments

- 1) more comfortable than other forms of travel
- 2) *cheaper*
- 3) *safer*

## Justifications/Examples

go for a walk, eat in a restaurant, go shopping, have more space to move around

*go for a walk, eat in a restaurant, have more space to move around*

## AGAINST

## Arguments

- 1) *takes longer*
- 2) *unpleasant*

## Justifications/Examples

*tiring*

**4** Read the article again and replace the linking words/phrases in bold with synonymous ones from the table on p. 83. Then, say which of the linking words/phrases in the article are used to:

a) list/add points      c) show contrast  
 b) introduce reasons/results      d) introduce a conclusion

**5** Underline the correct linking word/phrase.

- 1** Besides/Despite, television affects the way we think.
- 2** Many people are against/argue that we need advertisements in order to keep up to date with the latest products on the market.
- 3** One point of view against/in favour of travelling is that it allows you to meet people from different cultures.
- 4** Even though/Nevertheless most people nowadays use a computer at work, it will be a while before we stop putting our ideas down on paper.
- 5** For instance/Still, people who know how to play a musical instrument are usually popular and make friends more easily than others.

**6** Read the paragraph below and underline the correct linking word/phrase.

There are many advantages to having children at an early age. **1) To begin with/In addition to this**, when you are young, you have a lot of energy. This means you can cope quite easily with children's demands for constant care and attention. **2) To conclude/Secondly**, young parents can relate to their children and **3) therefore/nevertheless** understand them better. **4) Yet/Finally**, when you become a parent at an early age, you are still young enough to enjoy life when your child becomes independent.

### MAIN BODY PARAGRAPHS

You should start each main body paragraph with a **topic sentence** which introduces or summarises the main topic of the paragraph. The topic sentence should be followed by supporting sentences which justify the argument presented in the topic sentence, by giving examples or reasons. You should use linking words/phrases to present your justifications, such as: *first of all, what is more, for example, because, since, in particular, etc.*

e.g. *Travelling by train has a lot of advantages.* } topic sentence

*First of all, it is comfortable as trains are spacious so there is plenty of room to walk about. What is more, trains are convenient. For example, you do not have to take any food or beverages with you, because most trains have a restaurant. Finally, when you travel by train you reach your destination fairly quickly.* } supporting sentences

**7** a) Read the extract below and choose the correct topic sentence to fill in the blank.

- There are many advantages to using the Internet.
- However, there are many arguments against using the Internet.
- Computers have become the most important means of communication.



First of all, you spend hours and hours sitting in front of a computer screen. This can lead to severe backache and problems with your eyesight. Moreover, using the Internet can be very expensive, because the membership fees and phone bills are often high. Finally, using the Internet requires a lot of patience. Getting onto the Internet is not always easy and this means you sometimes have to wait a long time to get access.

b) What is the topic of the paragraph? List the arguments mentioned.

8

a) Match each argument about modelling to its corresponding justification. Which points are "for" and which are "against"?

### Arguments

- 1  be an exciting career
- 2  opportunity to earn a lot of money
- 3  models must constantly watch what they eat
- 4  no privacy

### Justifications

- a) expected to stay thin so that they look good all the time
- b) designers and fashion magazines are willing to pay high fees for popular models
- c) reporters are always chasing them
- d) models usually travel to interesting places and often meet famous people

b) Use linking words/phrases to complete the main body paragraphs below.

e.g. There are certain arguments in favour of a career in modelling.

.....  
.....  
.....

On the other hand, many people believe that a career in modelling also has drawbacks.

.....  
.....  
.....



### TECHNIQUES TO BEGIN OR END YOUR ESSAY

To attract the reader's interest and make the beginning or ending of your essay more effective, you can use some of the following writing techniques:

- a) address the reader directly e.g. *If you take the time to train your dog, it will learn to obey you.*
- b) include a quotation (i.e. a sentence or phrase taken from a book, play, etc.) When we use a quotation, it is necessary to mention the name of the person who said/wrote it. e.g. *As George Orwell wrote, "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others."*
- c) include a rhetorical question e.g. *Is it true that a dog is man's best friend?*

9 Read the extracts below and say which are beginnings and which are endings. Then identify which writing technique(s) has/have been used in each.



A Do you fancy yourself as a handyman or handywoman? For people who are good with their hands, home decorating is certainly an option. With the wide range of materials available in the shops, and the increasingly high cost of professional decorating, the trend is towards DIY. So what are the advantages and disadvantages of 'do it yourself'?

B To sum up, although there are many points against being a reporter, I believe there are certainly aspects in favour of it. Besides, as John Hersey once said, "Journalism allows its readers to witness history."

C More and more couples today choose to have only one child. Most of us imagine that being an only child must be terribly lonely, but is that really the case? Having no brothers or sisters has both advantages and disadvantages.

D All things considered, I believe that there are more disadvantages than advantages to dieting. Perhaps that was why writer and journalist Geoffrey Cannon believed that "Dieting makes you fat." After all, if you eat sensible, well-balanced meals and keep fit and active, you are more likely to stay slim.

## 10 a) Read the topic sentences and think of appropriate supporting ones. The prompts below will help you.

1 There are certain drawbacks to being a doctor.

- have to study all their lives in order to keep up with the latest medical developments

- 
- 
- 



2 Watching television has certainly got its advantages.

- keep up to date with current news
- 
- 



3 There are many arguments against being a famous rock star.

- never home because they travel all over the world giving concerts
- ~~no privacy~~
- ~~Alcohol & drugs are popular~~
- ~~any psycho can kill you~~
- ~~problems with family~~

b) Match the quotations to the topics above. Use the quotations to write appropriate endings for each topic.

a **3** “Everybody wants to be famous until they are.”

*Keith Richards*

*(musician, songwriter)*

c **2** “Television! The entertainment which flows like tap water.”

*Dennis Potter*

*(British playwright)*

b **1** “We are humble men in our profession. We do our best.”

*A Dickson Wright*

*(British surgeon)*

## 11 Read the topic sentences, then write appropriate supporting ones. Join the sentences with appropriate linking words/phrases in order to write a complete paragraph.



1 There is no doubt that going on holiday during the winter is an attractive option.

- 
- 
- 



2 On the other hand, there are drawbacks to being a firefighter.

- 
- 
- 



3 There are certain disadvantages to owning a dog.

- 
- 
-

**12** a) Discuss the following questions in pairs.

- Do many people in your country use bicycles instead of cars?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a bicycle?
- What are the differences between cycling in the city and in the country?
- Do you think more people should cycle to work instead of using other forms of transport? Why?

b) Read the rubric and underline the key words, then answer the questions.

A health and fitness magazine has asked its readers to write an article discussing the advantages and disadvantages of cycling as a form of transport. Write your **article** for the magazine.

- 1 What type of essay is this?
- 2 Which of the following *should not* be included in your introduction? Tick (✓).

A your opinion

B general remarks

C statement about the topic

D a quotation

- 3 In which part of the essay should you write about the advantages and the disadvantages of cycling?
- 4 In which paragraph can you include your opinion about cycling?

c) Look at the list of points below and tick the six points that should be included in your article. Mark these as A (advantages) or D (disadvantages), as in the example.

1 cycling is an inexpensive form of transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A
2 fumes from cars and lorries are bad for your health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D
3 there are lots of different bicycles in the shops	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A
4 cycling helps you to stay fit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A
5 cycling on busy roads is not very safe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D
6 my cousins go cycling at weekends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A
7 cycling is an environmentally-friendly way to travel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B
8 bicycles are unsuitable for long journeys	<input type="checkbox"/>	



d) Match the relevant points from above to the justifications below. Then, make sentences using appropriate linking words/phrases.

4 A it is a good form of exercise, particularly for the legs, heart and lungs

4 B it does not create air pollution

1 C you do not have to spend money on things such as petrol or costly repairs

5 D drivers do not always give way to cyclists

3 E there is a limit to the distance a cyclist can reasonably travel in one day

2 F in some cities the fumes are so bad that cyclists have to wear masks to protect them from pollution

**13**

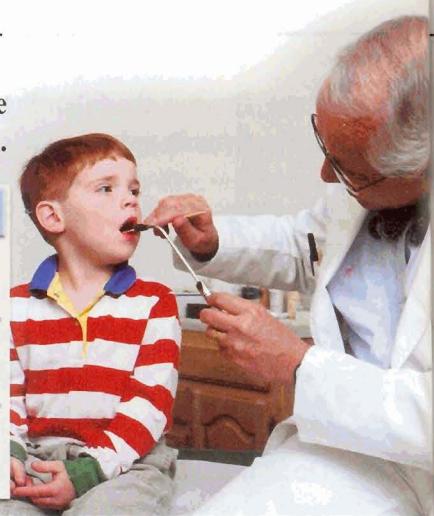
Use your answers from Ex. 12 to write your article on the advantages and disadvantages of cycling as a means of transport (120–180 words). You can use the text in Ex. 3a as a model.

# UNIT 14a

## Opinion Essays

1 Listen to a discussion about free healthcare and match the viewpoints with the reasons. Then, say which points you agree with and which ones you disagree with.

Viewpoints	Reasons
A free healthcare is a basic human right	1 people would learn to have healthier lifestyles, so fewer people would be ill
B people who can afford it should pay for their treatment	2 everyone deserves free medical treatment when they are ill
C more time and money should be spent on health education	3 more money could be spent on treating those who really need it



Opinion essays are discursive essays in which you present your personal opinion on a particular topic. Your opinion must be stated clearly and supported by justifications. You should also present the opposing viewpoint(s) in a separate paragraph.

An opinion essay should consist of:

- a) an **introduction**, in which you introduce the subject and state your opinion clearly;
- b) a **main body**, consisting of two or more paragraphs (each presenting a separate viewpoint supported by reasons/examples), including a paragraph giving the opposing viewpoint supported by reasons/examples; and
- c) a **conclusion**, in which you restate your opinion using different words.

- You normally use **present tenses** in this type of writing, and phrases such as *I believe*, *In my opinion*, *I think*, *It seems to me that*, *I strongly disagree with*, etc to express your opinion. You should list your viewpoints with *Firstly*, *Furthermore*, *Moreover*, *Also*, etc, and introduce the opposing viewpoint using *However*, *On the other hand*, etc.
- Opinion essays are normally written in a **formal style**, therefore you should avoid using colloquial expressions, short forms or personal examples. You can find this type of writing in the form of an article in newspapers, magazines, etc.

### 2 Read the rubric and underline the key words, then answer the questions.

You have had a class discussion about the following statement:

*English and Maths are more important subjects than Art and Music.*

Now your teacher has asked you to write an **essay** giving your opinion and reasons to support your view(s).

- 1 Who is going to read your essay? *Teacher*
- 2 Should you use colloquial expressions and short forms? Why (not)?
- 3 What does the statement in the rubric mean? Tick (✓)
  - A Art and Music are easier than English and Maths.
  - B Art and Music are not as important as English and Maths.
- 4 Which of the following should you include in your essay? Tick (✓).
  - A reasons why Art and Music can be boring
  - B your views about whether English and Maths are important
  - C reasons or examples to support your views
  - D opposing views and supporting arguments

#### Introduction

#### Paragraph 1

introduce the subject and state your opinion clearly

#### Main Body

#### Paragraph 2

first viewpoint and reasons/examples

#### Paragraph 3\*

second viewpoint and reasons/examples

#### Paragraph 4\*

opposing viewpoint and reasons/examples

#### Conclusion

#### Final Paragraph

restate your opinion, using different words

\* The number of paragraphs in the main body depends on the number of viewpoints included.

5 Which of the four subjects mentioned in the rubric do/did you study at school? Which is/was your favourite, and why?

6 What are the benefits of studying these subjects? Use the notes to complete the table. You can add further ideas of your own.

*tools to deal with everyday matters*      *provide well-rounded education*  
*help you communicate clearly*      *necessary in order to find a job*

## English & Maths

## Art & Music



7 Do you agree or disagree with the statement in the rubric? Give reasons.

3 a) Read the essay and label the paragraphs with the headings below.

- second viewpoint & examples
- subject & opinion
- restate opinion
- opposing viewpoint(s)
- first viewpoint & examples

### English and Maths are more important subjects than Art and Music

Isn't it unfortunate that in today's society there are so many people who cannot read, write or even do arithmetic? I strongly believe that, although subjects such as Art and Music are important, English and Maths are the most fundamental part of our education.

In the first place, when you know how to read, write and do simple calculations, you have the tools required in order to deal with everyday matters. For example, being able to read and write can help you communicate and express yourself clearly. Moreover, you need basic maths for such daily chores as doing your shopping, paying your bills and managing your money.

Furthermore, it is essential to have a good knowledge of English and Maths in order to find even the simplest job. Reading, writing and mathematical skills are the minimum requirements that most employers demand.

On the other hand, it can be argued that Art and Music are just as significant as English and Maths. For instance, learning how to draw or play an instrument can introduce a child to a whole new world. In addition to this, subjects such as Art and Music can provide children with a well-rounded education rather than just basic skills.

All things considered, though, it seems to me that English and Maths are vital subjects. Without learning to read, write or do arithmetic, people may have difficulties coping with even the simplest tasks in daily life.

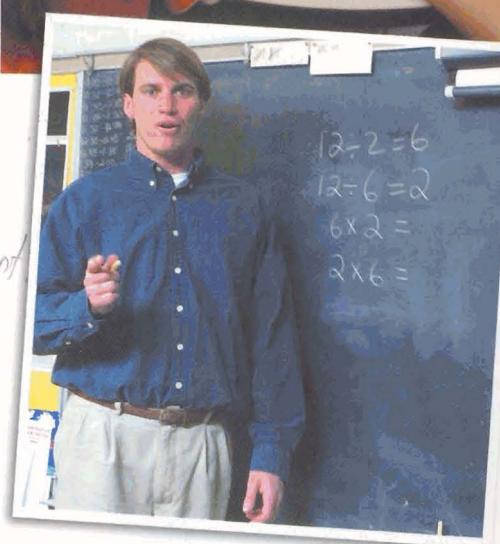
Para 1  
 subject  
 opinion

Para 2  
 first viewpoint

Para 3  
 second  
 viewpoint

Para 4  
 opposing

Para 5  
 restatement



b) Read the essay again and underline the viewpoints the writer mentions. What reasons/examples are given to support each viewpoint? What linking words/phrases are used to introduce the writer's viewpoints and the opposing viewpoint? What is the writer's opinion? Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

4 Use the linking words/phrases from the list below to fill in the table that follows, as in the example.

in the first place, also, for example, to sum up, moreover, firstly, although, to begin with, all things considered, such as, therefore, on the other hand, however, apart from this, in other words, in particular, for instance, in addition, because, taking everything into account, furthermore, for one thing, since, lastly, secondly, nonetheless, while

1 To list points:

in the first place, firstly  
to begin with, lastly, for one thing

2 To add more points:

also, for example, although  
such as, be ~~lastly~~ secondly  
in addition, the moreover, furthermore  
neverover

3 To introduce opposing viewpoints:

On the other, therefore, although  
however, furthermore, another  
nonetheless, on the other hand, while

4 To introduce examples/reasons:

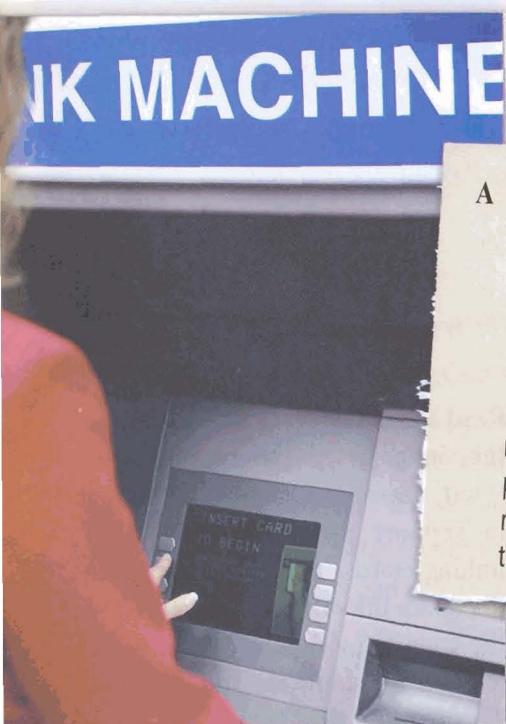
On the other hand, such as,  
because, for one thing

5 To conclude:

For example, for instance, in particular  
to sum up, all things considered  
in other words, in particular  
taking everything into account

lastly

5 Read the extracts and replace the linking words/phrases with suitable ones from Ex. 4. Which paragraph is each extract from?



A 1) On the other hand, computers save us time and energy and make our daily lives easier. 2) For one thing, most of us are grateful to be able to withdraw money from cash machines rather than wait in long queues inside the bank. 3) What is more, computers have made many people's jobs easier by doing routine tasks that in the past were tiring and time-consuming.

all things considered  
To sum up

B 1) All in all, I don't believe that theatre is an outdated form of entertainment, 2) since new ideas are often presented on the stage. 3) While television may be more convenient, it is theatre that offers quality entertainment.



6 Underline the correct word/phrase, as in the example.

It is argued/One reason that testing new drugs on animals is necessary before giving them to humans.

2 In my view, we can all do something to protect the environment. For example/In addition, we can recycle newspapers and magazines.

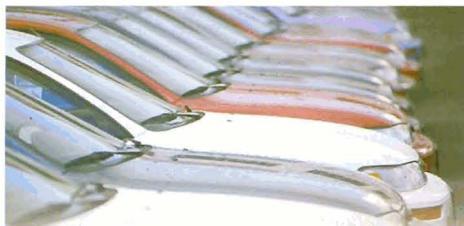
3 Taking holidays abroad is usually no more expensive than taking them in your own country. What is more/However, it gives you the opportunity to experience other cultures.

4 Secondly/Especially, regular exercise helps you to stay in good health.

5 On the other hand, it can be argued that what individuals do to protect the environment makes very little difference, in particular/since it is factories and power stations which create the most pollution.

Each main body paragraph should start with a **topic sentence** which clearly states the main idea of the paragraph. This should be followed by appropriate **supporting sentences** which justify the main idea and/or give examples.

## 7 Read the extract below and answer the following questions.



On the other hand, there are certain disadvantages to having your own car. Firstly, cars have to be maintained and repaired on a regular basis. Therefore, you need to spend a considerable amount of money to keep the car in good condition. Moreover, driving can sometimes be extremely stressful. For example, being caught in a traffic jam is not only irritating but also time-consuming.

- What is the main idea of the paragraph? Which sentence is it in?
- What supporting sentences does the writer give?
- Which linking words/phrases has the writer used? Suggest other suitable words/phrases which could replace these.

## 8 Read the topic sentences and suggest suitable supporting ones.

- Television may have a harmful effect on young people.
- Looking after a pet from an early age develops a person's character.
- Life in a large city is very interesting.

## Useful expressions for giving opinions

- I believe/think/feel (that) ...
- I strongly believe ...
- In my opinion/view, ...
- The way I see it, ...
- It seems/appears to me (that) ...
- To my mind, ...
- I (do not) agree that/with ...
- My opinion is that ...
- As far as I am concerned, ...
- I (completely) agree that/with ...
- I (strongly) disagree that/with ...
- I am totally against ...
- I couldn't agree more that/with ...
- I couldn't disagree more that/with ...

## 9 Use the prompts below to write sentences, as in the example.

- we / help / elderly their lives be easier  
e.g *I strongly believe that we should help the elderly. If we were to do this, then their lives would be easier.*

- all students / learn / foreign language have better career opportunities

*I think all students should learn foreign language. If they were to do this, they would have better opportunities.*

- people / give up smoking have fewer health problems

*In my opinion people should give up smoking. If they do this, they would have fewer health problems.*

- teenagers / get / part-time job learn to be more responsible

*In my opinion teenagers should get part-time job. If they were to do this, they would learn to be more responsible.*

- we / all do / voluntary work our community be a better place to live

*In my opinion we all should do voluntary work. If we do this, our community will be a better place to live.*

## 10 Use appropriate expressions to expand the prompts below to make sentences expressing an opinion, as in the example.

- in order to / protect / environment / people / stop use / plastic bags

*It seems to me that, in order to protect the environment, people should stop using plastic bags.*

- spending money / set up / space stations / be / completely / unjustified

*It appears to me that spending money doesn't set up space stations. It would be completely unjustified.*

- in order to reduce / pollution / traffic / be / ban from / enter / city centre

*It seems to me that, in order to reduce pollution, traffic should be banned from entering city centre.*

- organic vegetables / be / much / healthy / than / vegetables / grown with chemical fertilizers

*It seems to me that organic veg. is much healthier than vegetables which were grown with chemical fertilizers.*

- children / be encouraged / participate in / after-school activities

*It seems to me that children should be encouraged to participate in after-school activities.*

*It seems to me that children should be encouraged to participate in after-school activities.*

**11** a) Read the sentences below. Then, use appropriate words/expressions to give your opinion, as in the example.

1 A part-time job is the best option for someone who is a working parent.

*I completely agree that a part-time job is the best option for someone who is a working parent.*

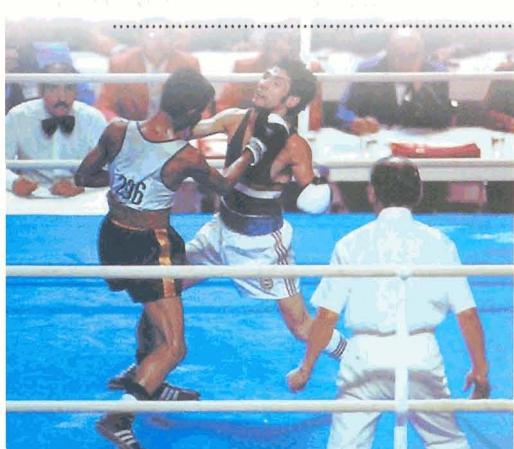
2 Package holidays are ideal for people who do not like to travel alone.

*I agree that package holidays*

3 Becoming more aware of environmental concerns is the only way to help save our planet.

4 Educational standards in private schools are usually higher than those in state schools.

5 Boxing is an extremely violent sport and should be banned.



**12** a) Imagine you have had a class discussion about the following question: "Should more people give up meat and become vegetarians?" Read the viewpoints (1-5) and match them to the reasons (A-E), as in the example.

1 Eating meat is bad for you

**B**

2 There are many healthy and tasty alternatives available

**C**

3 Eating meat is cruel to animals

**D**

**A** Soya beans and lentils are delicious and are good sources of protein.

**B** It has been linked to heart disease and even cancer.

**C** Meat provides us with the protein and vitamins that we need.

4 Meat is an essential part of our diet; we cannot do without it

**E**

5 Vegetarian food is often boring and tasteless

**F**

**D** Animals are kept in terrible conditions just so they can be killed and eaten.

**E** There aren't many vegetarian dishes that actually taste nice.

b) Read the viewpoints again and say which you agree with and which you disagree with. Make sentences using appropriate linking words/phrases.

c) Complete the parts of the essay below, using your answers from parts a) and b) as well as your own ideas.

Nowadays, we are often told what we should or should not eat. However, I personally believe .....

To begin with, .....

In addition, .....

On the other hand, .....

**13** Read the extracts below and say which are beginnings and which are endings. Which writing techniques have been used in each?

- A addressing the reader directly
- B asking a rhetorical question
- C using direct speech/a quotation

1 Every day we hear of more and more violence at sports events because  fans become enraged when their team loses. Don't you think that the most effective way to control such incidents would be to teach people how to handle defeat?

2 To sum up, competition has a negative effect on children, as the only  thing that really matters is winning. Imagine how you would feel if you were always expected to be the best.

3 In conclusion, I strongly believe that taking part in sports is more  important than victory itself. After all, as our coach always says, winning is just "the icing on the cake."

4 Has the importance placed on winning increased in recent years? For  many people, this seems to be the main aim of sport. However, I believe that simply taking part is far more important than winning.

**14** Read the rubric and underline the key words, then answer the questions.

You have had a class discussion about the following statement:

*Fast food is a good alternative to cooking for yourself.*

Now your teacher has asked you to write an **essay** expressing your opinion and giving reasons for your point of view.

1 What does the statement in the rubric mean?

- A Fast food is cheap, delicious and good for you.
- B** Fast food is a good solution for those who have no time to cook.
- C Cooking is easier than ordering takeaway.

2 Which points *must* you include in the essay?

- A your opinion
- B your friend's opinion
- C reasons to justify your points of view

3 Which style is *not* suitable for this essay – formal or informal?

**15** a) Read the rubric in Ex. 14 again and match the viewpoints (A - C) to their reasons/examples (1 - 6). There are two justifications for each viewpoint.

**Viewpoints**

A fast food easy solution for people with busy lives

B fast food unhealthy

C fast food expensive for consumer and environment

**Reasons / Examples**

- 1 high in fat and salt; not fresh
- 2 packaging non-biodegradable, damages environment
- 3 many ingredients are genetically modified
- 4 ordering fast food saves time and energy
- 5 people who work long hours can pick up phone and order takeaway
- 6 money spent on fast food for a week is enough to buy groceries for two weeks

b) Which of the viewpoints agree with the statement in the rubric? Which disagree?

c) Use the notes in part a) to talk about fast food, as in the example.

e.g. *In the first place, fast food is very unhealthy. ...*

**16** Read the rubric in Ex. 14 again, then write your essay (120 - 180 words). Use your answers from Ex. 14 and your notes from Ex. 15 to help you. You can use the essay in Ex. 3 as a model.

# UNIT 14b

## Providing Solutions to Problems

B

### 1 Look at the pictures and answer the questions.

a) Which of the following is shown in each picture?

- 1) air pollution
- 2) heavy traffic
- 3) rubbish

B .....  
A .....



b) Do any of these problems exist in your town/city?

c) Can you think of any solutions to these problems?



Essays providing solutions to problems are pieces of writing in which you discuss a problem and its causes as well as the expected results or consequences of your suggestions. An essay providing solutions to problems should consist of:

- a) an **introduction** in which you state the problem and/or what has caused it;
- b) a **main body** which consists of two or more paragraphs presenting suggestions and their results/consequences. You should start a new paragraph for each suggestion and its results/consequences; and
- c) a **conclusion** in which you summarise your opinion.

Essays providing solutions to problems are normally written in a formal or semi-formal style, depending on who is going to read them and where they are published. They are usually found in newspapers and magazines.

### 2 Read the rubric and underline the key words, then answer the questions.

A local newspaper has asked its readers to write articles entitled *"How can we make our city a better place to live?"* Write your **article** suggesting ways to improve your city.

- 1 Who is going to read your article?
- 2 Look at the problems (1-5) and match them to the solutions (a-e). Which of these problems do you think is the most/least serious? Can you think of any more problems and solutions?

#### PROBLEMS

- 1 **b** air pollution
- 2 **c** heavy traffic
- 3 **e** nowhere for people to walk
- 4 **d** nowhere for children to play
- 5 **a** litter

#### SOLUTIONS

- a provide more litter bins
- b move factories out of the city
- c encourage people to use public transport
- d build more parks and playgrounds
- e build wider pavements

- 3 Match the solutions above to each of the results below. Then talk about the solutions and their results, as in the examples.

#### RESULTS

- c** 1 there would be fewer cars on the roads
- a** 2 the streets would be cleaner
- b** 3 the air would no longer be dangerous to breathe
- d** 4 children would have somewhere safe to play
- e** 5 people would be able to move around more easily

#### Introduction

#### Paragraph 1

state the problem(s) and/or the cause(s)

#### Main Body

#### Paragraphs 2-4\*

suggestions and results/consequences

#### Conclusion

#### Final Paragraph

summarise your opinion

\* The number of main body paragraphs depends on the number of suggestions you want to make.

e.g. *If people were encouraged to use public transport, there would be fewer cars on the roads. We should provide more litter bins. If we did this, the streets would be cleaner.*