

1) A 'FOR AND AGAINST' COMPOSITION

Read the composition. Complete with 'linkers'.

- As a result
- Besides
- However
- for example
- In conclusion
- The main advantage
- On the other hand
- What is more

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being famous?

Nowadays the magazines that sell the most are ones like *Hello* magazine, which tell us about the lives of famous people. It seems that everybody is interested in them, and that most people would really like to be famous. ¹ _____, there are advantages and disadvantages.

² _____ of being famous is probably the lifestyle it gives you. Most famous people are very rich and can afford big houses with swimming pools, and expensive cars. ³ _____, they spend a lot of time travelling, visiting different countries, and staying in luxurious hotels.

⁴ _____, there are disadvantages. Every time famous people go out they are surrounded by fans and photographers.

⁵ _____, it is very difficult for them to have a normal private life. ⁶ _____, they often can't spend much time at home as they have to travel so much, ⁷ _____ if they are making a film or doing a concert tour.

⁸ _____, I think it is probably easier to be happy if you are not famous, in spite of all the money famous people have.

Put the linkers in the chart.

USEFUL LINKING EXPRESSIONS	
To list advantages and disadvantages _____ <i>Another (dis)advantage is ...</i>	To add more points to the same topic <i>Also</i> <i>As well as this ...</i> _____ _____
To make contrasting points <i>Although ...</i> _____ _____	To explain a consequence <i>So ...</i> _____ _____
To introduce the conclusion <i>To sum up ...</i> _____	To introduce an example <i>for instance ...</i> _____

Tips for writing a 'for and against' composition

- Write four paragraphs, an introduction (e.g. what the situation is now in your country), points for, points against, and a conclusion (your opinion, e.g. if there are more points for than against).
- Use a **formal** style (i.e. don't use contractions or very colloquial expressions).
- List the points for and against before you start writing (two points for and two points against is probably enough).
- Back up your points with reasons or examples.
- Learn and use connectors to link your ideas.

2) A BIOGRAPHY

Read the biography. Complete with prepositions from the list.

A biography of Oscar Wilde



Oscar Wilde was born ¹ _____ Dublin ² _____ 16th October 1854. He went to school in Enniskillen, and ³ _____ he was 17 he went to Trinity College Dublin. Three years ⁴ _____ he went to Oxford University. He wrote his first poem ⁵ _____ he was travelling in Italy during the summer vacation.

Immediately ⁶ _____ leaving Oxford he moved to London, where he lived ⁷ _____ the next 18 years. He married Constance Lloyd in 1884 and they had two sons. Wilde's first big success came in 1892 with his play *Lady Windemere's Fan*, and he soon became famous for plays like *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and his novel *The Picture of Dorian Grey*.

However ⁸ _____ 1895 he was arrested for immoral behaviour, because of his intimate friendship with Lord Alfred Douglas, and was sentenced to two years in prison. ⁹ _____ his imprisonment he wrote one of his most beautiful works, *De Profundis*.

¹⁰ _____ he was released from prison he went to live in France, where he died ¹¹ _____ 30th November 1900, a broken man.

- after (x2)
- during
- for
- in (x2)
- later
- on (x2)
- when
- while

Tips for writing a biography

- Write at least three paragraphs, one for the birth and early years, one (or two) for the middle years, and one for the last years.
- Link events with time expressions (*Immediately after*).
- Use narrative tenses. If the person you're writing about is still alive, you may want to use *Since* + present perfect in the last paragraph (*Since he retired he's spent a lot of time travelling*).
- Be careful with prepositions of time.

3) A STORY

Bernie woke up suddenly and looked at the bedside clock...

Bernie woke up suddenly and looked at the bedside clock. It was 3.00 in the morning. 'Much too early,' he said to himself, and went ¹ back to sleep. He was a light sleeper when he knew he had to get up early, and today he was feeling ² responsible as he had the plane tickets for the football team, and they had agreed to meet at the airport at 7.00.

Suddenly Bernie woke up again and looked at the bedside clock. It still said 3.00. He was just falling asleep when he noticed that sunlight was coming in through the curtains. 'Oh no!' Bernie thought, ³ looking for his watch on the table. It said 7.05.

⁴ the phone started to ring. 'What's happened to you?' a voice asked. 'It's 7.05. The plane leaves at 7.45.' 'I'll be there as soon as I can,' Bernie promised. ⁵, he put on the first clothes he could find, picked up his bag, which ⁶ he'd packed the night before, ⁷ took his car keys and ran out of the door ...

Bernie woke up ⁸ and looked at the bedside clock. It was 3.00 in the morning. A nurse came over. 'Where am I?' said Bernie. 'You're in hospital – you've had a car accident ... driving too fast, I'm afraid. Were you trying to catch a plane?'

- a Read the story. Answer the questions.
- 1 What was Bernie going to do that day?
 - 2 What did he realize when he noticed the sun coming through the window?
 - 3 Who do you think phoned him?
 - 4 Where was he at the end of the story? Why?
- b Make the story more vivid using expressions from the list.

at that moment desperately especially fortunately in a panic
quickly straight suddenly

Tips for writing a story

- 1 Always invent your plot before you start writing (*A man wakes up late and drives to the airport. He has an accident and wakes up in hospital.*).
- 2 Divide your story into three parts:
 - Opening paragraph**
Set the scene, describe the situation.
 - Body of the story**
Two or more paragraphs describing the events in the story.
 - Closing paragraph**
How the story ends, what happens to the characters.
- 3 Try to use a mixture of narrative tenses (past simple, past continuous, past perfect).
- 4 Use time expressions to link events (*when, at that moment, suddenly, etc.*)
- 5 Use adverbs (*desperately, fortunately*) to make your story more vivid.

4) AN OPINION COMPOSITION

Read the composition. Complete with a word/ expression from the list.

Besides Firstly such as Personally
Secondly To sum up

Top sports people earn too much money nowadays

In most countries today top sports people, ¹ footballers, tennis players and basketball players, get enormous salaries. What they earn in a week is often more than ordinary people earn in a year. Is this really too much?

² I don't think so.
³, the active life of a professional sports person is relatively short – they often retire when they're in their mid-thirties. ⁴, many of them don't even play that long, as they often get injured, which means they have to retire early.

⁵, although their salaries are very high, they are not much higher than other successful people in the entertainment industry like pop singers, actors or TV personalities, whose professional careers can last for fifty years. Sport today is watched by millions of people, so it should be considered entertainment just like the cinema or TV.

⁶, I think that top sports people's high salaries are not unfair if you compare them with people doing similar jobs.

Tips for writing an opinion composition

- 1 Plan four (or five paragraphs): an introduction (e.g. what the situation is in your country), the main reasons why you agree/disagree and a conclusion (a summary of your opinion).
- 2 List your reasons ('for' or 'against') before you start writing. Two or three main reasons is enough.
- 3 Start paragraph 2 with your main reason (*Firstly* ...). Use a linker (*besides, what is more*) to add a related reason. Use *Secondly* and *Finally* to introduce your other arguments in new paragraphs.
- 4 Back up your reasons with clear examples.
- 5 Use a formal style (don't use contractions, or very colloquial expressions).
- 6 Learn and use the connectors in the list.