

## IELTS Writing Task Two prepositions and determiners pairwork

Work as a group with one Student A and one Student B worksheet in each group (with two students sharing one worksheet if there are three people in your group). Don't show your worksheets to each other.

Choose one of the sections on your worksheet and read examples from that section with the same word in **bold** missing until your partner guesses the missing word. They can only guess once per hint. If you run out of examples before they guess correctly, make up other example sentences with the same missing word, including non-IELTS ones if you can't think of any more IELTS examples. When they have guessed correctly, read out the ones that they got wrong so they can hear the correct answers, then guess your partner's missing word in the same way. Take turns doing the same with different sections until your teacher stops you. If you still have examples left after they guess correctly, you can come back to the same section later if you like.

Switch worksheets and do the same, making sure that you start with the most difficult examples this time (because they have already seen those examples).

Ask about any of your phrases or your partner's phrases which you are not sure of the meaning of, think could have another word in the place in bold, etc.

### Uses of prepositions and determiners presentation

Try to find prepositions and determiners on the worksheets with these meanings/ uses. Some things on the worksheet have more than one of these meanings/ uses, and some have none.

- \_\_\_\_\_ + a point in time or space
- \_\_\_\_\_ + how/ a way of doing something
- \_\_\_\_\_ + something specific
- \_\_\_\_\_ + something there is only one of
- \_\_\_\_\_ + somewhere within a longer space or time (than spaces/ times with "at")
- \_\_\_\_\_ + the origin/ source
- \_\_\_\_\_ + the topic/ subject
- \_\_\_\_\_ = belonging to/ possessed by
- \_\_\_\_\_ = finally/ completely
- \_\_\_\_\_ = in favour/ the opposite of "against"
- \_\_\_\_\_ = it doesn't matter which/ we don't know which
- \_\_\_\_\_ = not a
- \_\_\_\_\_ = one
- \_\_\_\_\_ = similar/ the same
- \_\_\_\_\_ = the opposite of "to"
- comparative adjective + \_\_\_\_\_ = more + adjective or adjective+er + \_\_\_\_\_
- passive voice + \_\_\_\_\_ = be + PP + \_\_\_\_\_

Check as a class or with the suggested answers.

## Student A

### A

A good example of this is...

A large number of people hold the view that...

As a consequence of this,...

Just a few years ago...

Recently, there has been quite a lot of passionate debate about...

There is a common view amongst the older generation that...

There is a reasonable chance of this happening within ten years.

There is a widespread belief that in my country that...

This is a huge problem for the next generation.

### About

I will write **about** the past and then examine the future.

Thinking **about** the bad points,...

Though it is worth thinking **about** all the aspects explained in this essay,...

### An

An additional example of this is...

An obvious difference between the two situations is...

Taking this city as an example,...

To give an example from my own experience,...

### At

Another aspect of this topic that is worth looking **at** is...

**At** the moment, we are experiencing an increase in the issue of...

**At** the same time, it can also be said that...

Looking **at** the advantages first, it should be obvious that...

### By

**By** and large, the general public accept the necessity for this.

I can illustrate my point **by** looking at...

It is thought **by** many that...

This is **by** far the best way to deal with...

This is clearly caused **by**...

This is supported **by** my own experience, in that...

### For

**For** all the reasons given above,...

**For** instance,...

**For** that reason,...

**For** the most part, voters support...

I will give three reasons **for** my opinion in the paragraphs below.

There are arguments both **for** and against this idea.

The main reason **for** this is...

This is extremely important **for** the younger generation.

### **From**

Many people my age in my country suffer **from** the issue of...

One example of this **from** my own experience is...

I can illustrate with an example **from** a programme I saw in which...

There has also been a lot of resistance to this idea **from** people who focus on...

Turning our attention **from** the benefits to the drawbacks,...

### **In**

All **in** all, this should have more positive than negative effects on...

Although the arguments against are also quite convincing, **in** the majority of cases...

Although there are also arguments for, as I said **in** the introduction I am convinced that...

Despite the disadvantages given **in** the previous paragraph,...

Having taken all the factors above **into** account,...

I saw a presentation on TED.com **in** which...

I will look at the positive and negative consequences of this course of action, **in** that order.

I will look at the positive and negative effects **in** turn.

**In** addition, it could benefit...

**In** general,...

**In** many cases, this doesn't work in practice due to...

### **Of**

One effect **of** this is...

One **of** the main benefits of this approach is...

One of the short-term consequences **of** this is...

The main long-term result **of** this would be...

The root cause **of** this is...

There are two strongly contrasting points **of** view on the topic of...

This happens because **of**...

### **Than**

Nonetheless, there are far more pros **than** cons to...

This is considerably more important **than** the effect on the older generation.

This would be somewhat better **than** changing...

### **To**

There are both pros and cons **to** such a policy.

There is also one more advantage **to** altering government policy on this matter.

This has been very controversial recently due **to** more attention on the issue of...

This inevitably leads **to** an increase in...

This situation is very similar **to** that during the first industrial revolution.

**To** give just one example,...

**To** put that another way,...

**To** summarise the views given above,...



## Student B

### As

**As** a consequence, many people support...

**As** a result of this,...

**As** far as I'm aware,...

As far **as** this city is concerned,...

**As** for the second advantage of this idea,...

**As** I mentioned above,...

As well **as** those benefits, there are also potential drawbacks.

There are many examples of this, such **as**...

This could have the same effect **as**...

This is not nearly **as** important as...

### In

**In** many developing countries there is a problem of...

**In** modern life,...

**In** my country many older people think that...

**In** other words...

**In** our globalised, hyper-connected world,...

**In** this essay I will give three reasons why I believe that...

The main argument **in** favour of this course of action is...

There is an assumption **in** many places that...

This is absolutely essential **in** order to...

This means that the government should put much more effort **into** improving...

This tends to result **in**...

### My

I will look at the advantages and disadvantages, and finally give **my** own opinion.

I will look at the pros, turn **my** attention to the cons, and use both to come to a conclusion.

**In my** personal experience,...

**My** personal point of view is...

To the best of **my** knowledge,...

### No

Although I am **no** expert on this matter,...

For this reason, I believe that national governments have **no** choice but to...

I have **no** doubt that this would help with...

### Of

A selling point **of** this plan is...

A well-known illustration **of** that is...

Another point **of** view is...

Examples **of** this include,...

In the vast majority **of** cases,...

Many younger people are **of** the opinion that...

**Of** all the arguments above, by far the most important is...

## On

Despite the possible drawbacks, **on** balance I would conclude that...  
I saw a video **on** YouTube in which...  
I will consider the selling points, move **on** to the drawbacks and lastly...  
I will look at the consequences for the children, discuss the effects **on** families, and...  
Moving **on** to the consequences,...  
This has a positive impact **on** what people think about...

## The

I can see both points of view, but I lean towards **the** latter opinion.  
In **the** near future, hopefully people will pay more attention to...  
It is also possible to argue **the** opposite point of view that...  
Over **the** last few years, there has been a substantial amount of bitter conflict over...  
Probably **the** best example of this is...  
Since the turn of the millennium, there has been lots of news coverage on **the** topic of...  
Nevertheless, **the** advantages easily outweigh the disadvantages because...  
This is probably due to **the** fact that...  
While all **the** factors explained above are true for some people, **the** most important...  
Whilst all **the** arguments above are true, we can safely ignore...

## To

According **to** a newspaper article that I read last week,...  
I therefore am forced to come **to** the conclusion that...  
I think there are both positive and negative sides **to** this.  
It seems clear **to** me that...  
It seems obvious **to** me that...  
It's very difficult **to** generalise, but...  
Owing **to** the expected increase in importance of these factors in the medium term,...  
That is **to** say...  
There are also drawbacks **to** taking such a radical step.

## Up

An example which backs **up** this point of view is...  
For people growing **up** nowadays,...  
Having weighed **up** both sides of the argument,...  
To sum **up** what I have written above,...

## With

Although many people probably disagree **with** me, I believe...  
I don't really agree **with** this point of view.  
I strongly agree **with** the former point of view.  
Perhaps a majority of parents in the world have to deal **with** the issue of...  
We can all do our part to help **with** this by...

### Suggested answers

- \_\_\_\_\_ + a point in time or space – at
- \_\_\_\_\_ + how/ a way of doing something – by
- \_\_\_\_\_ + something specific – the
- \_\_\_\_\_ + something there is only one of – the
- \_\_\_\_\_ + somewhere within a longer space or time (than with “at”) – in
- \_\_\_\_\_ + the origin/ source – from
- \_\_\_\_\_ + the topic/ subject – about
- \_\_\_\_\_ = belonging to/ possessed by – of
- \_\_\_\_\_ = finally/ completely – up
- \_\_\_\_\_ = in favour/ the opposite of “against” – for
- \_\_\_\_\_ = it doesn’t matter which/ we don’t know which – a/ an
- \_\_\_\_\_ = not a – no
- \_\_\_\_\_ = one – a/ an
- \_\_\_\_\_ = similar/ the same – as
- \_\_\_\_\_ = the opposite of “to” – from
- comparative adjective + \_\_\_\_\_ – than
- passive voice + \_\_\_\_\_ – by

### Brainstorming stage

*First of all without looking above, brainstorm at least two suitable sentences for each function below.*

#### Introduction

**Setting the scene/ Background to the question/ Rephrasing the question**

**Setting out your position (only if you’ll only look at one side of the argument)**

**Explaining the structure of the essay/ Explaining the organisation of the essay**

### Useful phrases for the body of an IELTS Writing Task Two essay

**Strong opinions**

**Weak opinions**

**Other opinions language**

**Supporting your arguments/ Supporting your opinions**

**Personal experience**

**Other people's experiences/ Other sources**

**Giving examples**

**Logical arguments (cause and effect, etc)**

**Generalising (= Making general statements about people in your country etc)**

**Comparing and contrasting**

**Advantages and disadvantages/ Looking at both sides**

**Problems and solutions**

**Talking about importance**

**Predictions**

**Rephrasing/ Explaining more**

**Starting new body paragraphs/ Changing topic**

**Useful phrases for ending IELTS Writing Task Two essays  
Summarising (when you have already given your opinion in the introduction)**

**Linking the conclusion to the content of the essay**

**Further point based on the summary/ conclusion (recommendation, prediction, etc)**

*Look above for examples, brainstorm more, then compare your answers as a class or with a list of phrases. Then play a different guessing prepositions and determiners game, choosing one function above and reading gapped phrases with different words missing each time.*