

Friends again

Five people talk about the school friends they have met up with again thanks to social media websites.

A Nadia Hassan

Although we've been living in different countries for a long time, I know I should have made more of an effort to stay in touch with Amina because we always got on well together, even though we're quite different people. For instance, I'm much more ambitious than her and have no plans to start a family, whereas she already has two children. It's quite a contrast in lifestyle, and although it's great that we're both content with our own lives – and we've enjoyed catching up with each other's news – I don't really know whether in the future we'll have enough in common to keep the relationship going.

B Julia Nowak

The first thing that struck me was that Natalia still looked much the same as she had ten years earlier, unlike some other people in their late twenties – especially those who have had serious personal issues to deal with during that time. She's also still very keen on sports, which I'm not, but she remains as sociable as she ever was and I suppose we're quite alike in that respect. In fact, she was one of the first people I thought of when the idea of contacting my old classmates occurred to me, and it's great you can do that online so easily. Otherwise you could lose touch with them forever.

C Olivia Morgan

Back in our school days I always liked Megan, but she was never keen on studying so I sort of took it for granted that she would end up doing a job that didn't require qualifications. Now it turns out she went on to do really well academically and for two years was a Philosophy lecturer at a top university. The other mistake I made was being rather cautious about responding when she first got in touch with me online last autumn, when in fact as soon as we saw each other on the screen we started chatting again as if that ten-year gap had never existed. I think we both quickly realised that we wouldn't ever let anything like that happen again.

D Maite Silva

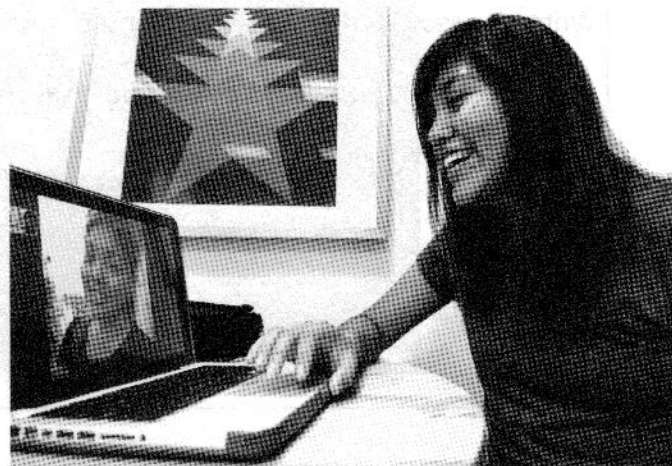
I was delighted when Carla told me she has such a good job. Somehow I always knew she'd do well, though I must confess that back then she was the last person I would have imagined becoming an economist because she was pretty hopeless at maths. But when she appeared on my laptop screen after all those years I was impressed by how mature she sounded and looked, and in fact she might be having an influence on me. Ever since we met up again, I've found myself taking a more serious attitude to my career, with promotion now a real possibility.

E Yan Lin

When I realised my old classmate Ming was trying to contact me I didn't hesitate for a second in replying. Somehow I'd always known that one way or another we were bound to run into each other at some point, because when we left school we'd both gone off to do the same subject at different universities. What I hadn't been prepared for, though, was the news that she'd had to interrupt her studies owing to personal problems. I expressed my sympathy, but she assured me she'd recovered and eventually graduated, and that since then she's been working in advertising. Which of course is exactly what I do, too.

Tip! When you are reading the text to find evidence, look for the same meanings as the questions, not the same words.

Tip! Remember that there may be parts of the text that are not tested.



Understanding the task; ordering points or reasons; adding information

1 Fill in the gaps in this text about Writing Part 1, using each item from the box once.

against both each formal idea linking
 notes opinion own plan range 140

In Writing Part 1, you write an essay giving your **(1)** on a particular topic in at least **(2)** words. You are given two very brief **(3)** to guide your writing, and you also have to add an **(4)** of your own. You can choose to write for or **(5)** the statement or question that forms the topic, or else give arguments on **(6)** sides, followed by your **(7)** opinion in the conclusion. As your essay is for a teacher, you should write in a fairly **(8)** style, using a variety of **(9)** expressions such as *Firstly*. You need to be careful with grammar, spelling and punctuation, and try to use a wide **(10)** of words, phrases and structures. You should always make a **(11)** for your text before you start writing, listing the points you are going to mention about **(12)** of the three notes.

2 With your partner, if you have one, think of two linking expressions for each of 1-4.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 to make the first point | 3 to make the last point |
| 2 to make more points | 4 to introduce the conclusion |

3 Which of these linking expressions can be used at the beginning of a sentence, followed by a comma? Which cannot?

also as well as well as that besides furthermore in addition too

4a Look at this Writing Part 1 exam task and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the topic of the essay? 2 Which two points must you discuss?

In your English class you have been talking about the problems of 21st-century urban living. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

Cars should be banned from city centres.

Notes

Write about:

- 1 noise and pollution
- 2 transport
- 3 (your own idea)

- b** Now read the model essay below, ignoring the gaps for now, and answer the questions.
- 1 Does the writer argue for or against the statement, or give arguments on both sides?
 - 2 In which paragraph does the writer discuss each of notes 1 and 2?
 - 3 Which other main point does the writer discuss, and where?
 - 4 What is the writer's opinion and where is it stated?

- c** Fill in gaps 1–8 with suitable linking expressions. In most cases more than one answer is possible.

In cities everywhere, there is growing concern about the effect of motor vehicles on the inhabitants' quality of life. Some people want to prohibit cars from urban areas, and to a great extent I agree.

(1) , these vehicles poison the air with their exhaust fumes, contributing to the clouds of smog that hang over many cities, especially in sunny weather. (2) , the sounds of engines and car horns destroys the peace of our neighbourhoods, even at night.

(3) , the huge amount of traffic nowadays makes cities less pleasant places to live. For instance, crossing busy roads often takes ages. (4) , they can be dangerous, especially for children, and for old or disabled people, (5)

(6) , there are often alternatives to travelling by car, such as the tube, buses or trams. (7) , if there were no cars, far more people would cycle to work, or they could walk there in the fresh air.

(8) , urban areas without cars would be much better places to live. As long as other means of transport are available, therefore, I believe our cities should become totally car-free.



- 1 Look at the exam instructions below.
 - 1 What do you have to write about?
 - 2 Who is your essay for?
 - 3 Which two main points must you include?

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140–190** words in an appropriate style.

In your English class you have been talking about the effects of rising living standards on the environment. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

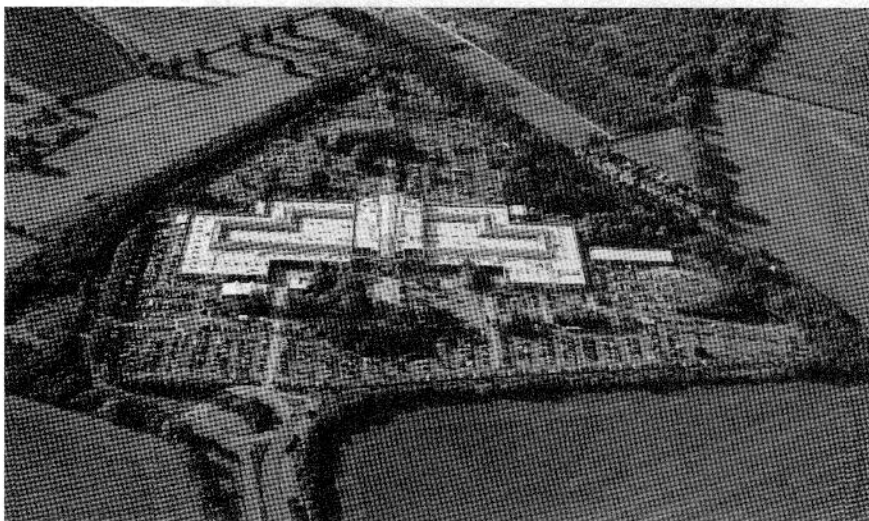
Which is more important: improving people's standard of living or protecting the environment?

Notes

Write about:

- 1 employment
- 2 housing
- 3 (your own idea)

- 2 Do the exam task.



Tip! Use expressions such as *firstly* and *besides* to link points together to form a complete text.

Tip! Introduce your own opinion with a suitable expression such as *I believe (that) ...* or *In my view ...*

Tip! When you've finished, check you've included all three notes and have given appropriate answers. And don't forget to allow time to check your essay for mistakes.