



Writing Clinic

IMPROVEMENT IN ACTION



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Writing Clinic : Before vs After

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DSE Writing Topics
2012 DSE Q1 (Short Task)
<p>You are a famous news reporter for <i>Hong Kong News</i>. Your old secondary school has asked you to write a feature article about yourself for the next edition of the school magazine.</p> <p>Use the following headings to write the article: the best part of my job, the biggest challenge I have ever faced in my job, my school days and (add one heading of your own).</p>
2023 DSE Q4
<p>The following topic was discussed at a debate workshop:</p> <p><i>Some employers use cameras and computer software to monitor what employees are doing in the workplace. How do you think this affects productivity and job satisfaction?</i></p> <p>Write an essay about the pros and cons of monitoring employees in the workplace.</p>
2012 DSE Q2
<p>You have been following an online debate in <i>Health and Fitness eMag</i> about the value of doing virtual sports (such as those played on a Wii) versus real sports. Write your view on the topic and post it on the online forum.</p>

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Student's Writing

Being a reporter of Hong Kong news is interesting and meaningful. I think the best part of my job is to understand the people who in need. For example, when I went to disaster to ask the resident there, I will understand how disaster is bad to them. To be empathy and to love the earth.

Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase** - ...to understand the people who in need.
 - **Correction** - ...to understand the needs of the community. (or) ...to understand people who are in need.
 - **Reason** - The original is missing the verb "are." In professional news writing, we often use the phrase "**people in need**" or "**the marginalized.**"
-
- **Original Phrase** - ...when I went to disaster to ask the resident there
 - **Correction** - ...when I visit disaster sites to interview local residents
 - **Reason** - You cannot go to a "disaster" (an event); you go to a "**disaster site**" or "**disaster zone**" (the place).
-
- **Original Phrase** - I will understand how disaster is bad to them.
 - **Correction** - I gain a deeper understanding of the devastating impact these events have on their lives.
 - **Reason** - "Is bad to them" is very informal. Using "**devastating impact**" describes the pain of the victims much more effectively.

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- **Original Phrase** - To be empathy and to love the earth.
- **Correction** - My job teaches me to be empathetic and to care for our world.
- **Reason** - This was a fragment (not a full sentence). "**Empathy**" is a noun (a thing you have); "**Empathetic**" is an adjective (a way you are).

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Student's Writing
<p>My school days always be happy and cheerful. The most unforgettable is when I share my dream. Everyone encourage me, it make me be hopeful in my future dream. Then I try to find chance to be host or join some choral speaking competition, to talk more.</p>
Clarity and Grammar Corrections
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Original Phrase - My school days always be happy and cheerful.• Correction - My school days were always happy and filled with joy.• Reason - You need a past tense verb ("were") because your school days are in the past. Adding "filled with joy" is a more descriptive way to say "cheerful."
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Original Phrase - ...everyone encourage me, it make me be hopeful...• Correction - ...everyone encouraged me, which gave me hope for my future.• Reason - Use the past tense "encouraged" and "made." In English, we usually say something "gives us hope" rather than "makes us be hopeful."
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Original Phrase - Then I try to find chance to be host...• Correction - I began looking for opportunities to host events...
Revised Version
<p>My school days were some of the happiest times of my life. I will never forget when I first shared my dreams; the encouragement I received from everyone gave me great hope. I began seeking out opportunities to host events and joined choral speaking competitions to practice public speaking.</p>

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Student's Writing

As many of you know, I am Chris Wong, a news reporter for Hong Kong News. I am well-known for my passionate sports news reviews and amusing interviews with celebrities. The best part of my job is that I can attend some world-class sports event around the world like the World Cup and NBA Finals. Moreover, I enjoy to spread happiness to our beloved viewers. By my hilarious and talkative personalities, I often create some memorable experiences such as that time with gold-medal winner Mr. Cheung Ka Long. I remember the most is that I saw a comment said my interviews made his day.

Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase** - Moreover, I enjoy to spread happiness...
 - **Correction** - Moreover, I enjoy **spreading** happiness...
 - **Reason** - In English, the verb "enjoy" must always be followed by the **-ing** form (gerund), never "to."
-
- **Original Phrase** - ...amusing interviews with celebrities.
 - **Correction** - ...engaging interviews with high-profile celebrities.
 - **Reason** - To sound more natural
-
- **Original Phrase** - By my hilarious and talkative personalities, I often create some memorable experiences...
 - **Correction** - Thanks to my outgoing and humorous nature, I am able to create memorable moments on screen...

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- **Original Phrase** - I remember the most is that I saw a comment said...
- **Correction** - What I remember most is seeing a comment that said...
- **Reason** - This sentence was a bit "illegible" because it was missing a subject.

Starting with "**What I remember most**" makes the sentence complete and clear.

Revised Version

As many of you know, I am Chris Wong, a reporter for Hong Kong News. I am best known for my passionate sports reviews and engaging celebrity interviews. The best part of my job is attending world-class sports events like the World Cup and the NBA Finals. Moreover, I love spreading joy to our viewers. Through my humorous and outgoing personality, I create memorable experiences — like my interview with gold medalist Mr Cheung Ka Long. What sticks in my mind most is seeing a comment from a viewer saying that my work truly made their day.

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Student's Writing

The biggest challenge in my job is that I get embarrassing sometimes in front of the camera. I am always rejected by various of celebrities or athletes. Sometimes they are just too busy to be interviewed. Sometimes there are dead air during interviews. Sometimes random people interrupt the interviews. All you have to do is keeping calm, ignoring the camera and keep the interviews going. Don't afraid to fail since everyone does fails sometimes. The failure just improves me day after day. And eventually become a slightly better reporter.

Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase** - ...I get embarrassing sometimes...
 - **Correction** - ...I feel **embarrassed** sometimes...
 - **Reason** - This is a common "ed/ing" mistake. If *you* feel the emotion, use "**embarrassed**." If the *situation* causes the feeling, the situation is "**embarrassing**."
-
- **Original Phrase** - Sometimes there are dead air during interviews.
 - **Correction** - Sometimes there **is** dead air during interviews.
 - **Reason** - "Air" is an uncountable noun, so it must use the singular verb "**is**."

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- **Original Phrase** - Don't afraid to fail since everyone does fails sometimes.
- **Correction** - **Don't be** afraid to fail, since everyone **fails** sometimes.
- **Reason** - "Afraid" is an adjective, so it needs the verb "**be**." Also, "does fails" is redundant; simply saying "**fails**" is stronger.

- **Original Phrase** - The failure just improve me day after day.
- **Correction** - These failures help me **improve** day after day.
- **Reason** - "Failure" is the subject, so it needs a verb. Also, using "improve me" sounds a bit passive; "help me improve" is more natural.

Revised Version

One of the biggest challenges in my job is dealing with embarrassing moments on camera. I am frequently rejected by a variety of celebrities or athletes who are simply too busy to be interviewed. At other times, I have to deal with 'dead air' or random interruptions from the public. In these moments, the key is to stay calm, ignore the camera and keep the interview moving. Do not be afraid to fail, as everyone fails occasionally. These experiences help me improve day by day and eventually make me a better reporter.

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Student's Writing

In my school day life, I was just a shy little boy who was totally different to the present. I was sitting at the corner of the classroom in recess. I always went out to have lunch alone. Until the mid of F4, I was forced to join the campus reporter program due to my excellent writing results. I tried to open my mouth and interview different people in my school and found that it wasn't that hard as I expected. Plus, I met a friendly senior student. He was kind and always teach me interviewing skills and make friends. I soon made many friends and became how to one of the most popular students in the school.

Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase** - In my school day life, I was just a shy little boy...
 - **Correction** - During my school days, I was just a shy boy...
 - **Reason** - "School day life" is redundant. "During my school days" is the standard way to talk about that period of your life.
-
- **Original Phrase** - ...who was totally different to the present.
 - **Correction** - ...who was completely different from the person I am today.
 - **Reason** - In English, we usually say something is "different **from**" something else. Adding "the person I am today" makes the comparison much clearer.

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- **Original Phrase** - I was sitting at the corner of the classroom in recess.
- **Correction** - I used to sit in the corner of the classroom during recess.
- **Reason** - "**Used to**" is the best way to describe a past habit. Also, we say "**in** the corner" for a room and "**during** recess" for a time period.

- **Original Phrase** - ...found that it wasn't that hard as I expected.
- **Correction** - ...found that it wasn't **as** hard as I **had** expected.
- **Reason** - When making a comparison, use the "as + adjective + as" structure.

Revised Version

During my school days, I was a shy boy and completely different from who I am today. I used to spend my recess sitting alone in the corner of the classroom and always ate lunch by myself. However, in the middle of Form 4, I was encouraged to join the campus reporter program because of my strong writing skills. Once I started interviewing people, I realized it wasn't as difficult as I had feared. I also met a kind senior student who taught me interviewing techniques and social skills. Thanks to that experience, I made many friends and eventually became one of the most popular students in school.

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Student's Writing

My moments at school will never be forgotten. In fact they are the best time of my life. I had loads of fun with friends playing soccer and representing the school. I was very focused on my hobbies instead of my future. It was until the last two year of my secondary school that I stopped being childish and foolish. I did research on being a reporter, what skill should I focus on developing and studied hard to get good grade. Without the help and encouragement from my teachers, I wouldn't succeed in my dream. Therefore, I would like to express my appreciation for my teachers in school days.

Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase** - It was until the last two year of my secondary school...
 - **Correction** - It **wasn't** until the last two **years** of secondary school...
 - **Reason** - We use the negative "wasn't" in this structure to show that the change happened at that specific time. "Years" must be plural because there are two of them.
-
- **Original Phrase** - ...what skill should I focus on developing and studied hard to get good grade.
 - **Correction** - ...**which skills** I should focus on developing, and **I** studied hard to get good **grades**.
 - **Reason** - "Which" is more precise here. You also need to repeat the subject "I" to show you are the one who studied. Nouns like "grades" should be plural when speaking generally.

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- **Original Phrase** - I wouldn't succeed in my dream.
- **Correction** - I wouldn't have **succeeded in achieving** my dream.
- **Reason** - After "wouldn't have," you must use the past participle (**succeeded**).

You succeed *in* a task, but you achieve a dream.

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Student's Writing

It is understandable that students want to strive for achievement. Maybe they live up to their parent's expectations, they want to safeguard the prospects of their future or they reckon that it is the symbol of pride. But I must emphasise one thing that you can permit yourself to have failure sometimes. Your academic performance is just a small portion of your life so you can explore your potential in different fields and meet more friends. This can build up a network of your future's work and fructify your life at the same time. On top of this, having a positive mindset is the key to success so having relaxation is also crucial because it supports you to go further appropriately.

Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase** - ...you can permit yourself to have failure sometimes.
 - **Correction** - ...you can **allow yourself to fail** sometimes.
 - **Reason** - While "permit" is grammatically okay, "allow yourself to fail" is the more common and encouraging idiom used when giving advice.
-
- **Original Phrase** - This can build up a network of your future's work...
 - **Correction** - This can build a **professional network for your future career**...
 - **Reason** - We usually use the term "**professional network**" to describe the group of friends and colleagues who can help with work later in life.

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- **Original Phrase** - ...they want to safeguard the prospects of their future or they reckon that it is the symbol of pride.
- **Correction** - ...they want to secure their future prospects or they believe that high grades are a badge of honor.
- **Reason** – to sound more natural

Revised Version

It is completely understandable that students strive for high achievement. Whether they are trying to meet their parents' expectations, secure their future prospects or simply take pride in their work, the pressure is real. However, it is essential to remember that it is okay to allow yourself to fail occasionally. Your academic performance is only one chapter of your life; by exploring different fields and building a diverse social circle, you can expand your professional network and enrich your life. Ultimately, a positive mindset and regular relaxation are the keys to sustainable success.

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Student's Writing

Hope that you are not working when you read this piece of article. It is recently observed that many of you are leaving the office very late, focusing on the computer screen which is full of numbers and ceaselessly typing, usually with a cup of instant noodle on the table. Of course, your effort towards your job is appreciative, but this scene is definitely what we want to see in our office, as it has brought detrimental effect to you, not only the company.

For those who always leave late, your health is undoubtedly a concern. Your health condition is of utmost importance to us right? Not only will staying late for work result in tiredness, but also a series of grave physical problems. According to research conducted by the medical school of Hong Kong University, it reveals that sleeping late especially after work will escalate the chance of having cardiovascular diseases, liver failure, to name but a few. Sometimes as you sleep late, you can't focus the next morning, what will you do? Buy coffee, right? It is true that coffee can boost ourselves and make us focus on work, it poses serious health problems like high blood pressure. Don't let this undesirable cycle continue, your health should always be prioritised!

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Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase:** ...your effort towards your job is appreciative...
 - **Correction:** ...your dedication to your work is **appreciated**...
 - **Reason:** "Appreciative" describes a person who *feels* thanks (e.g., "I am appreciative of your help"). "**Appreciated**" describes the thing that is being thanked (the effort).
-
- **Original Phrase:** ...this scene is definitely what we want to see in our office...
 - **Correction:** ...this scene is definitely **not** what we want to see in our office...
-
- **Original Phrase:** ...as it has bought detrimental effect to you...
 - **Correction:** ...as it **brings detrimental effects** to you...
 - **Reason:** "Bought" is the past tense of "buy." You meant "**brought**" (past of bring).

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Revised Version

I hope you are not working while reading this. It has recently been observed that many of you are leaving the office very late, staring at screens full of data and typing ceaselessly — often with a cup of instant noodles on your desk. While your dedication to your job is appreciated, this is not the environment we want for our office, as it has a detrimental effect on both you and the company.

For those who regularly stay late, your health is a major concern. Staying late results in more than just tiredness; it leads to a series of grave physical problems. According to research conducted by the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Medicine, sleeping late after a long workday increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and liver failure, to name but a few. When you lack sleep, you may struggle to focus the next morning and rely on coffee to stay alert. While caffeine can provide a temporary boost, over-reliance can lead to serious issues like high blood pressure. Please do not let this unhealthy cycle continue; your health should always be the priority.

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Student's Writing

Apart from impacts towards individuals, leaving the office too late also adversely affect our company as it reduce the productivity. You may ponder - I can finish my tasks as soon as possible, Isn't it a kind of fostering productivity? NO! It's exactly the opposite. Please imagine that, after a day of toilsome work, I'm sure that you will lose the motivation of having meetings, reading documents and typing reports. Without the passion and inspiration not to mention, the productivity leaves much to be desired. At best, you finish your tasks slower; at worst, your work is a mess.

In light of this undesirable scenario, tasks can be reassigned to our staff, reconsidering their daily workload. More often than not, our staff are unable to accomplish all tasks assigned within the official working hour. The reason behind it is not their laziness, but the overwhelming workload. We may re-examine overall circumstance, lighten some departments' workload in the interest of arranging suitable workload for our employees. Hiring more staff may be needed to split the work. Not only can the new arrangement improve the current situation, but also can it lighten staff's psychological burden. Why don't give it a try?

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Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase:** ...adversely affect our company as it reduce the productivity.
 - **Correction:** ...adversely **affects** our company as it **reduces productivity**.
 - **Reason:** "Leaving the office" is the subject (singular), so the verb needs an "s" (**affects**). We also do not need "the" before "productivity" when speaking in general terms.
-
- **Original Phrase:** ...Isn't it a kind of fostering productivity?
 - **Correction:** ...Isn't that a way of **boosting** productivity?
 - **Reason:** "Fostering" is usually used for feelings or environments (fostering a sense of community). When talking about output or speed, we use "**boosting**," "**enhancing**," or "**increasing**."
-
- **Original Phrase:** ...without the passion and inspiration not to mention, the productivity...
 - **Correction:** ...**Not to mention the lack of** passion and inspiration; consequently, productivity...
 - **Reason:** "Not to mention" should be placed before the things you are adding to the list.

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- **Original Phrase:** ...tasks can be reassigned to our staff, reconsidering their daily workload.
- **Correction:** ...tasks can be reassigned **by** reconsidering the daily workload of our staff.
- **Reason:** This makes the action clearer. The management is doing the "reconsidering" to help the staff.

- **Original Phrase:** ...within the official working hour.
- **Correction:** ...within official **working hours**.
- **Reason:** This is a fixed plural phrase. We always refer to "working hours."

- **Original Phrase:** ...lighten staff's psychological burden.
- **Correction:** ...**alleviate the** psychological burden **on our** staff.
- **Reason:** While "lighten" is okay, "**alleviate**" is a standard term used when discussing burdens, stress, or pain.

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Revised Version

Beyond the impact on individuals, leaving the office too late adversely affects our company by reducing overall productivity. You might ask: 'If I finish my tasks as quickly as possible, isn't that boosting productivity?' Absolutely not. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Imagine that after a day of toilsome work, you lose the motivation to attend meetings, review documents or write reports. Without passion and inspiration, productivity leaves much to be desired. At best, you work slower; at worst, the quality of your work suffers significantly.

In light of this undesirable scenario, we should reassign tasks and reconsider daily workloads. More often than not, our staff are unable to accomplish their assigned duties within official working hours — not due to laziness, but because of an overwhelming workload. We should re-examine our circumstances and lighten the load in certain departments to ensure tasks are manageable. Hiring additional staff may be necessary to distribute the work. This new arrangement would not only improve the current situation but also alleviate the psychological burden on our employees. Why not give it a try?

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Student's Writing

Apart from the working arrangement, our company should also change the "OT" Policy, referring that employees have to accomplish most of the tasks assigned that day before leaving the office. Most of our staff reveal that the recent policy is too strict, forcing them left behind for working. Will it be better if the deadline of tasks assigned will be longer? On one hand, staffs don't have to stay behind until late night. On the other hand, they will be less stressed and check every details, submitting work with better quality. Isn't it killing two birds with one stone? It is sincerely hoped that our company can consider these suggestions.

In a nutshell, leaving the office very late for work does more harm than good for both employees and employers. let's voice out our concerns and let the company know about it!

Clarity and Grammar Corrections

- **Original Phrase:** ...referring that employees have to accomplish...
- **Correction:** ...**which states** that employees must accomplish...
- **Reason:** "Referring" is used when a person mentions something. Since you are talking about a written policy, "**which states**" or "**which stipulates**" is much more professional.

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- **Original Phrase:** ...forcing them left behind for working.
- **Correction:** ...forcing them **to stay late to work.**
- **Reason:** This is a verb structure error. "Force [someone] **to do** [something]" is the correct pattern.

- **Original Phrase:** Will it be better if the deadline of tasks assigned will be longer?
- **Correction:** Would it be better if **deadlines for assigned tasks were extended?**
- **Reason:** We use "**Would it be...**" to suggest an idea. We also "**extend**" a deadline rather than making it "longer". Pay attention to the verb tenses here (conditional!!)

- **Original Phrase:** ...staffs don't have to stay behind...
- **Correction:** ...**staff members** don't have to stay late...
- **Reason:** "Staff" is a collective noun and is almost never pluralized as "staffs." Use "**staff**" or "**staff members.**"

- **Original Phrase:** ...they will be less stressed and check every details...
- **Correction:** ...they will be less stressed and **will check every detail...**
- **Reason:** "Every" is always followed by a singular noun (**detail**).

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Revised Version

In addition to revising working arrangements, the company should also reconsider our current 'OT' policy, which stipulates that employees must accomplish most of their daily tasks before leaving. Many staff members find this policy too strict, as it forces them to stay late every evening. Would it not be more effective to extend the deadlines for assigned tasks? On one hand, staff would not have to stay until late at night. On the other hand, they would be less stressed and could attend to every detail, resulting in higher-quality work. This approach truly kills two birds with one stone. It is sincerely hoped that the company will consider these suggestions.

In a nutshell, staying late for work does more harm than good for both employees and employers. Let us voice our concerns and ensure the company is aware of these issues!

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Student's Writing

First of all, the virtual sports are make the sports to be gamified, such as Wii Sports, Ring Fit. It requires player to do sports to clear levels or finish different mission. Therefore, it is easier for people to get a sense of achievement when people did a mission. For someone how to do real sport, they may think it is very hard and difficult to have a change of their body. It leads them to give up keeping a do sport habit. But if there are some mission for people, they will be more willing to keep do sports. So the virtual sports can be a critical first step toward increasing daily activity, building interest, and fostering a positive association with movement.

Revised Version

First of all, virtual sports **!** *(x are make)* **gamify exercise** **!** *(dun quote examples in 7S).* Titles such as Wii Sports **and** Ring Fit **require players** to **perform physical activities** to clear levels or finish different **missions**. Therefore, it is easier for people to get a sense of achievement when they **complete** a mission. **When it comes to real sports**, some may think it is very hard and difficult to **see physical changes in their bodies**. This leads them to **give up the habit** of exercising. **!** *(dun start a sentence with 'but')* However, if there are missions to complete, people will be more willing to **keep exercising**. Therefore, virtual sports can be a critical first step toward **!** *(gd summary)* increasing daily activity, building interest and fostering a positive association with movement.

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Student's Writing

The real sports can provide a better mentally well-being. Because when you are doing real sports, you can meet different people on the equipment. You can chatting with others while running, having workout, playing football. However, the virtual sports cannot provide it, as you just can do it at home by yourself. You cannot meet some new friends when you are doing virtual sports. Also you may easier to feel lonely, if there are nobody do the virtual sports with you. Moreover, you just stay at home doing the virtual sports, you can't feel free and look at the beauty of nature. It will make you to be depressed and feeling trapped, if you are facing the same four walls for so long.

Revised Version

Real sports can provide better **mental well-being**. ! *(dun start a sentence with 'because')* This is because when you are doing real sports, you can meet different people **at the gym or park**. You can **chat** with others while running, **working out** or playing football. However, virtual sports cannot provide ! **this social aspect**, as you **usually** do it at home by yourself. You cannot meet ! *(dun overuse 'some')* new friends when you are doing virtual sports. Also, you may ! *(the correct pattern here : sb find it (adj) to do sth)* **find it easier** to feel lonely if there is nobody **doing** the virtual sports with you. ! *(gd pt here)* Moreover, **if** you just stay at home doing virtual sports, you **cannot** feel **truly** free or look at the beauty of nature. It **may cause you to feel** depressed and trapped if you are facing the same four walls for **too long**.

Language Master : Level-Up Expressions

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You may write	Show / prove (n.)
My students write	Be testament to (n.)
Example Sentence	This program not only celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Karen people but also serves as a testament to their resilience and artistic prowess.

You may write	You may not realize that ...
My students write	It may surprise you to discover that ...
Example Sentence	It may surprise you to discover that most of their graceful motions in tai chi actually mimic elements abundantly found in nature such as the free-flowing wind and water.

You may write	It means more than just ...
My students write	It holds importance / significance beyond ...
Example Sentence	Tai chi holds a far greater importance beyond being merely a physical exercise or a meditative practice.

You may write	After (n.), ...
My students write	Following / Subsequent to (n.), ...
Example Sentence	Following the rotational training, I then joined the concierge service team to assist guests.

Language Master :

Level-Up Expressions

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You may write	Suitable for ...
My students write	Tailored to ...
Example Sentence	For those with an adventurous spirit, our farm offers a wild variety of activities tailored to different interests and fitness levels.

You may write	Cannot find ...
My students write	Can hardly afford ...
Example Sentence	The air here is crisp and fresh, something you can hardly afford amidst the hustle and bustle of our jungle city.

You may write	Let you explore / take a look at ...
My students write	Offer a window into ...
Example Sentence	Tai chi offers a window into the rich cultural heritage of Hong Kong.

You may write	After (n.), ...
My students write	Following / Subsequent to (n.), ...
Example Sentence	Following the rotational training, I then joined the concierge service team to assist guests.

Language Master : Level-Up Expressions

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You may write	The key point of ... is ...
My students write	Central to ... is ...
Example Sentence	Central to this movement is the principle of financial independence, which encourages people to save aggressively.

You may write	(Suggestion) should talk more
My students write	Foster open dialogues
Example Sentence	As Hong Kong adapts to the progressively diverging views on retirement, it becomes paramount to foster open dialogues between the older and younger generations.

You may write	Be practical
My students write	Stay pragmatic
Example Sentence	While listening to your inner voice and following your passion is important, it's equally crucial to stay pragmatic.

You may write	Sb feels surprised
My students write	To sb's surprise, ...
Example Sentence	To his surprise, he discovered a walkie-talkie lying on the floor, abandoned and silent.

Language Master :

Level-Up Expressions

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You may write	Find ways to do/ go/ (v.) faster
My students write	Seek effortless shortcuts to (n.)
Example Sentence	Some students focus on seeking effortless shortcuts to academic excellence instead of putting in hard work.

You may write	When ... / In the period of ...
My students write	In the era of (n.)
Example Sentence	In the era of gender equality and elimination of stereotypes, the fresh, open-minded views of modern youth should be respected.

You may write	A lot of cases worrying ...
My students write	A frightful / distressing number of ...
Example Sentence	There has been a frightful number of child abuse cases on the news recently.

You may write	What I learn from ... is ...
My students write	(key) takeaway from ...
Example Sentence	The takeaway from the conference was how competitive the tourism industry has become.

Language Master :

Level-Up Expressions

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You may write	Not likely to succeed
My students write	A long shot
Example Sentence	I hope to double my profits in a year, but I know that's a long shot.

You may write	... is no longer needed
My students write	... has become superfluous
Example Sentence	With the introduction of the new software, the old system has become superfluous and can be decommissioned.

You may write	... is unlikely to happen
My students write	... is a remote possibility
Example Sentence	While the company is exploring various options, a merger with their competitor remains a remote possibility due to regulatory challenges.

You may write	As everyone knows, ...
My students write	Common knowledge dictates that ...
Example Sentence	Common knowledge dictates that investing in the stock market carries inherent risks.

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Trend-Specific Catchphrases

- "High scores, low ability" (高分低能)
 - Critiques students who excel in exams but lack critical thinking, creativity, or real-world skills
- Top scorer / Straight-A student (狀元)
- Grade inflation (成績膨脹)
 - Refers to the trend of rising grades without corresponding increases in learning or rigor (possibly to please students and parents)
- EdTech revolution
 - Refers to the rise of technology in classrooms — AI tutors, online platforms, gamified learning ...
- Cram schools (補習班)
- Skills gap (技能缺口)
 - Highlights the mismatch between what students learn and what employers need — especially in tech, communication and problem-solving
- Tiger parenting (虎媽式教養)
 - Describes strict, high-pressure parenting styles focused on academic success
- Academic burnout (學業倦怠)
 - Describes emotional exhaustion from prolonged study stress — common among high-achieving students

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Homeschooling

- Definition:
A pedagogical approach where parents or guardians assume the responsibility of teaching their children at home, rather than sending them to a traditional public or private school
- Advantages:
 - Customized Learning: Tailors lessons to a child's pace, interests and learning style
 - Flexible Schedule: Allows for flexible learning schedule, facilitating experiential learning opportunities such as travel, extracurriculars or community engagement
 - Safe Environment: Minimizes exposure to bullying, peer pressure or school-related stress
- Disadvantages:
 - Resource Constraints: May lack access to specialized pedagogical tools, laboratory facilities, extracurricular infrastructure (e.g. gymnasiums) or specialized teachers available in institutional settings
 - Limited Socialization: Homeschooled children may miss out on the regular social interactions and peer relationships fostered in traditional school settings, which can impede social development

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Exams Vs Projects

- Advantages of Exams:
 - **Standardized Evaluation:** Exams offer a uniform way to measure student performance, making it easier to compare results across individuals or even different classes
 - **Time-Efficient:** They require less time to administer and grade, especially in large classrooms
 - **Reduced Bias:** Exams, particularly those with clear grading rubrics, can minimize subjective bias in evaluation
 - **Immediate Feedback**
- Disadvantages of Exams:
 - **Surface Learning:** Encourage rote memorization rather than deep understanding and application of knowledge
 - **Limited Assessment of Real-World Skills:** May not adequately assess skills like creativity, teamwork, time management or problem-solving, which are often assessed through projects

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- Advantages of Projects:
 - Develop Practical Skills: Provide opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge and build practical skills relevant to future careers
 - Promote Deeper Understanding: Projects often require students to research, analyze and synthesize information, leading to a more profound and lasting understanding of the subject matter
- Disadvantages of Projects:
 - Time-Consuming to Grade: Often involve written components and require more in-depth evaluation than multiple-choice exams, resulting in longer grading periods and delayed feedback for students
 - Potential for Unequal Group Work: Group projects can be challenging if the workload is not distributed evenly, potentially leading to resentment and unfairness among group members
 - Academic Dishonesty: Projects, especially group projects, can be more vulnerable to academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or one student doing the majority of the work

