

Writing skills practice: A for and against essay – essay

Exam question

Your English class have been discussing the topic of young people using the internet. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay answering the following question:

Is the internet bad for young people?

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It is now easier than ever to access the internet, whether you are using a computer, phone or tablet. There is no doubt that many young people are spending more and more time online, with both positive and negative consequences.

One advantage of the internet is that young people can do research for their schoolwork and homework. This often helps teenagers to widen their knowledge and improve their grades. Another positive aspect of the internet is that people can practise foreign languages by chatting to friends in other countries. This is also a good way of keeping in touch with friends and family around the world.

On the other hand, there are also negative consequences. Some young people become addicted to online gaming and this can mean that they waste too much time playing these games. This can have a negative effect on their schoolwork, the amount of exercise they get and their social lives. In addition, excessive internet use can mean that some young people hardly talk to their families because they are always on the computer.

To sum up, spending time on the internet can have a negative impact on young people, but it also has many advantages. Personally, I think the internet is an incredible tool and the benefits of internet access outweigh the dangers. However, we should be careful not to use the internet excessively.

Top Tips for writing

1. Start by saying what the current situation is or introducing the debate.
2. In the second paragraph talk about the advantages or reasons in favour. Use expressions like *One advantage of X is ...* and *Another advantage of X is ...*
3. In the third paragraph give the disadvantages or reasons against. You can start this contrasting paragraph with *On the other hand, ...*
4. Finally, sum up the main arguments using *To sum up, ...* or *To conclude, ...* Give your opinion too, using expressions like *Personally, ...* or *In my opinion, ...*