

English Language and Translation 2

2nd Language - 2018-19

Lesson 13: 18 March 2019

Writing Academic English

Structure

Divide the discussion into clear sections:

Beginning/Introduction

Present the subject and the context, the aim and objective of the discussion, and the sections into which the discussion is divided.

The main body/content

Referring to the sections indicated in the Introduction, present the analysis, providing relevant examples from the materials to be discussed.

Conclusion

Summarise the main points of the discussion and draw appropriate conclusions based on the materials considered and assessed.

Paragraphs

Divide the discussion into significant paragraphs.

The first and last sections, above, will be at least one, possibly two or three paragraphs.

The main body will have at least one paragraph for each section that is to be presented and discussed.

Each paragraph will have a topic sentence, i.e. a sentence that indicates what the paragraph is addressing.

All the information in the paragraph should be related to the topic sentence.

Sentences

Do not write excessively long sentences. On average, a sentence will be one or two lines, but it is good practice to vary sentence length;

- Vary the structure of individual sentences, for example by including initial adverbial expressions, e.g. Having described the question of style, we can now consider some specific examples;
- Vary the verb structures. Maybe include passive forms or impersonal constructions;
- Use different co-ordinating (in addition, furthermore, on the other hand, etc.) and subordinating structures (although, if we look at this problem, depending on the situation, etc.).

Vocabulary

- Richer and more varied, wider choice of terms, synonyms;
- Avoid overuse of basic and frequent vocabulary;
- Greater use of lexical items derived from Latin/Greek roots; polysyllabic items;
- Fewer phrasal verbs and high-frequency (Germanic root) verbs
- Correct collocations and connotations
- Awareness and use of metaphor and other devices

Syntax

Consider use of passive/impersonal forms:

I am pleased the project has been finished

It is believed to be finished

More nominalisation than verbal structures

I am pleased the project has reached completion

I am pleased we have finished

Avoid prepositions at the end of a phrase/question

Where have you come from?

From where have you arrived?

Avoid contractions

Register

An academic essay is a formal, written exercise – use the appropriate register and style.

See: Lesson 10 (18 February 2019)

Punctuation

Follow the main standards for punctuation; in particular, do not over-use.

See: Lesson 7 (18 December 2018)

Text for analysis

RESTAURANT PATRICK GUILBAUD

Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud

Cuisine: Contemporary French

Style / Ambiance: Arguably the most respected restaurant in Ireland, the legendary Patrick Guilbaud's opened in 1981 and since then has won every major food award going.

Currently in the hands of chef Guillaume Lebrun, the restaurant has held two Michelin stars for a number of years, and has long set the standard to which others aspire. It remains the only two-star restaurant in the country and with a wine list every bit as impressive as the food, you'll be talking about this place for some time after. Highlights include the Blue lobster ravioli, caramelized veal sweetbreads and the contemporary dark chocolate tart. Beside the main dining room, a heated terrace looks over the 16th century garden of The Merrion Hotel and offers a charming spot for a digestif.

M Hammersley – 18 Mar 2019