

1) Look at this essay task:

**Write about the advantages and disadvantages of owning a car.**

2) Here a learner has made a plan to help her write about this topic:

#### **Advantages**

#### **Disadvantages**

*Cars are convenient.* —————→ *Finding somewhere to park.*

*Driving is fun.* —————→ *Cars increases pollution.*

*You have more privacy.* —————→ *Driving can be expensive.*

*You can go where you want.* —————→ *Traffic jams.*

3) Look at her paragraph plan. She already has used her *list of advantages* to make the first sentence in each paragraph. These are called **topic sentences**, and they tell the reader what is going to be in each paragraph.

#### **Paragraph 1**

*Cars are convenient.*

#### **Paragraph 2**

*Driving is fun.*

#### **Paragraph 3**

*If you own a car, you have more privacy.*

#### **Paragraph 4**

*When you own a car, you can go where you want.*

4) Because she is giving her opinion, she is also going to include some typical expressions:

*In my opinion,...*

*I believe...*

*For me,...*

*In my experience,...*

5) Finally, the writer needs to include an introduction, so we know what the essay is about. We'll also need a conclusion at the end.

Here is her introduction:

*I have a car, but I have never thought about the advantages or disadvantages of having one. I believe that owning a car is better than not owning a car. I will share with you my reasons for this.*

6) On the next page is the writer's final essay.

## Write about the advantages and disadvantages of owning a car.

*I have a car, but I have never thought about the advantages or disadvantages of having one. I believe that owning a car is better than not owning a car. I will share with you my reasons for this.*

*In my opinion, cars are very convenient. For example, if it's raining and I need to pop out to buy some milk, I can jump into my car and drive. If I didn't have a car, I would have to walk and would probably get wet at the same time. The main disadvantage of driving in this situation, is that sometimes it can be difficult to find a parking space. Although you can drive to the shops, you can't be sure of finding somewhere to park. If you go by bus, then you never have this problem.*

*Another advantage of driving is that it is fun. When you drive, you can listen to your own music and you can stop where you like. Because it's your own transport, you can decide to change your route, or even stop off to visit some interesting place. A downside of this is pollution. It's much better for the environment to use public transport although it's less convenient and enjoyable. This leads me onto my next point.*

*In my experience, if you own a car, you have more privacy. As I said earlier, in your own car, you can listen to any music you like. If you go by train, for example, you have to be quiet and respect the other passengers. I like to listen to loud music and sing at the same time, so for me, driving is much nicer than going by train. One problem with this is that it can be more expensive to drive than to go by public transport. Although train fares in the UK are expensive, if you buy tickets early enough, you can save quite a bit of money.*

*Finally, I would like to say that when you own a car, you can go where you want. If you go by train or bus, you are stuck with the route that the bus or train takes. In a car, you have much more freedom, so that is probably why people like to own their own cars in the UK. In my country, people do drive, but it's more common for people, especially in cities, to only use public transport. One of the main problems with so many people driving is traffic jams. . Whenever I drive to a different city or town, I always seem to be stuck in a traffic jam. If you go by train, then you never have to experience this.*

*In conclusion, despite the disadvantages of driving, I still believe that owning a car is better than only using public transport. In my opinion, it is more convenient and more fun than using a bus or train. There is also more privacy and freedom to go where you want.*

7) In the essay, find the topic sentences in bold.

Topic sentences are used to introduce the main idea of each paragraph.

8) Look at some of the expressions that are typical in this kind of writing:

### **Introduction**

*I believe that owning a car is better than*

*I will share with you my reasons for this.*

### **First paragraph**

*In my opinion,*

*For example,*

*The main disadvantage of*

### **Second paragraph**

*Another advantage of driving is that*

*A downside of this is*

*This leads me onto my next point.*

### **Third paragraph**

*In my experience, if you*

*As I said earlier,*

*One problem with this is that*

### **Fourth paragraph**

*Finally, I would like to say that*

*One of the main problems with*

*...so that is probably why*

### **Conclusion**

*In conclusion,*

*In my opinion, it is*

9) Now look at all the underlined linking words, which have been used to connect different ideas together:

*if      although      when      because      or      whenever      so      despite*

10) You have been asked to write an essay on this topic:

**Write about the advantages and disadvantages of living in the countryside.**

11) Plan what to write, like the writer did in the first essay.

**Advantages**

**Disadvantages**

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

12) Think about some **topic sentences** for each paragraph. Remember that **topic sentences** tell the reader what each paragraph will be about. It makes it easier for the person who is reading the essay.

**Paragraph 1**

**Paragraph 2**

**Paragraph 3**

**Paragraph 4**

13) Now you are ready to write your essay. You can begin with the introduction if you like, or you can write that when you have finished writing your main paragraphs. Use the expressions that we looked at in 8). Also, try to use lots of linking words. This will make your writing much more interesting, and you will be able to say more complicated things.