Г. В. ЛОВЧА, Е. Б. ВИЛЬКОВСКАЯ, К. М. ДЕЙКУН

ACADEMIC WRITING:
THE ESSAY
(Classification; Process; Comparison / Contrast Essays)

ОСНОВЫ ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ:
ЭССЕ
(классифицирующие эссе; эссе, описывающие процесс; эссе, построенное на сравнении и контрасте)

Практическое пособие
для студентов 1 курса специальности
140.01/02-03 классической филологии
140.03/06-03 richterская филология

Учебное издание
Гомельский государственный университет
им. Ф. Скорины
2013
Содержание

Введение........................................................................................................ 4
Seminar 1 ...................................................................................................... 5
Seminar 2 .................................................................................................... 20
Литература..................................................................................................... 39
Введение

Практическое пособие предназначено для студентов 1 курса специальности 1-02 65 06 - 01 «Английский язык. Немецкий язык»; 1-02 03 06 - 03 «Английский язык. Французский язык».

Актуальность и необходимость подготовки практического пособия обусловлены неотъемлемым учебной литературы на курсе «Основы письменной речи». Оно разработано в соответствии с практической направленностью обучения иностранному языку и предполагает активное информационно-коммуникативное обучение по всем направлениям, формирующим функции языка. В основу пособия заложены принципы систематизации и логики обучения и соответственно учителям и студентам.

Целью изложения пособия является развитие и совершенствование навыков письменной речи студентов, формирование умений коммуникации, умений рефлексии, развитие коммуникативной компетенции. В пособии особое внимание уделено навыкам письменной коммуникации, тексту и структуре сообщения, включая функциональные письменные тексты. В пособии уделено внимание проработке текстовых и структурных навыков, а также навыкам письменной речи. В пособии уделено внимание проработке текстовых и структурных навыков, а также навыкам письменной речи.

Практическое пособие представляет систему упражнений и заданий для обучения английской коммуникативно-эмоциональной и языково-коммуникативной компетенции, включающей усвоение речевых оборотов, теоретического и практического материала по тематическому разделу «The Essay (Classification, Process, Comparison/Contrasts)».

Упражнения и задания состоят из основных и дополнительных упражнений, выполненных в основой изложения. Они отвечают на вопросы, что обучает студент, и способствует развитию языковых и речевых умений студентов. Упражнения включают коммуникативно-коммуникативную направленность и представляются на различные аспекты коммуникации. Материалом для упражнений служат актуальные коммуникативные тексты, подготовленные на лингвистических единицах. Форма упражнений определяется характером материала, подготовленного тематическим уровнем. В практическом пособии представлены материалы, основанные на структурах, выделенных в тематическом разделе «Classification Essay, Process Essay, Comparison/ Contrast Essay».

Практическое пособие может быть использовано студентами как на практческих занятиях, так и во время самостоятельной работы.

Seminar 1

Theoretical materials for revision.

The Essay:
The thesis statement: direct and indirect statements;
The Essay introduction;
The body of the essay;
Essay conclusion;
A Classification Essay.

Consolidation exercises

An essay is a group of paragraphs about one topic. Each paragraph is unified and coherent. Each one has three parts: an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.

Ex. 1. From Paragraph to Essay:
a) Read the paragraph and answer the question.

Job Skills

One way in which career counselors classify jobs is according to the basically-defined categories of the skills that the jobs require. Counselors like to try to match these categories with areas of strength for those who seek the professional. Counseling today considers three major skill categories: interpersonal skills, mental skills, and physical skills. Interpersonal skills help us establish and maintain personal relationships. We put them to use when we communicate with others, either in person or by other means. Mental skills are the skills of the mind. We use these skills when we process information, come up with ideas and think through ideas, and plan how to transform ideas into actions. We rely on our physical skills when we use our hands and bodies. These are skills that we need when we engage in the variety of physical activities that occur in our working lives. According to today’s career counselors, it is important for students to think about our strengths in all three of these skill areas when we are trying to find a career that fits our needs.

The three categories of skills in this paragraph support the controlling idea, but they provide limited information. What kinds of details could the writer add to expand each category and make it more clear for the reader? Jot down some of your ideas here.
Intercultural skills:

Mental skills:

Physical skills:

b) Read the essay, which is an expanded version of the paragraph in part e. Then answer the questions.

Job Skills:

Are you looking for a job? How do you go about sifting through the seemingly endless stream of information available to find that one job? So you? Well, career counselors, who are trained to help people find their ideal jobs, can be very helpful in your job search. One way in which career counselors try to match people with their ideal jobs is by the broadly-defined categories of skills that the jobs require. Counselors today consider three major skill categories: interpersonal skills, mental skills, and physical skills.

Interpersonal skills help us establish and maintain personal relationships. We use them when we communicate with others, either in person or by other means. For example, people who work in retail sales, real estate, or other merchandising areas need high developed interpersonal skills. Interpersonal skills are also very important for people in the so-called helping professions – doctors, nurses, teachers, and social workers. In fact, today’s medical schools are giving almost as much weight to the interpersonal skills of their applicants as they do to their mental skills when evaluating these candidates acceptance into their training programs.

Mental skills are the skills of the mind. We use these skills when we process information, come up with and think through ideas, and plan how to transform ideas into actions. Mental skills are obviously important for writers, academicians, and researchers. But these are not the only careers that demand high-level mental skills. Any job that involves helping people solve problems—from what color hat to choose to how to cope with stress, depression, or insomnia—demands mental skills. These skills include such general abilities as synthesizing, analyzing, perceiving, and visualizing and are thus important in many fields.

We rely on our physical skills when we use our bodies. These are the skills that we need when we engage in the variety of physical activities that occur in our working lives. Physical skills involve such things as stamina, dexterity, and physical strength. These skills are especially important for people who spend their time moving, carrying, and lifting things. Athletes, mail carriers, truck drivers, farmers, machinists, and others who work outdoors often must rely on their physical skills.

Few jobs involve only one of the three major skill types; most jobs need all of them, at least to a certain extent. Even a computer programmer, who may sit for hours at a time in front of her computer needs a key physical skill. Without finger dexterity, her job would be quite challenging! However, most jobs do require greater competence in one of the three skill areas than they do in the others. According to today’s career counselors, it is important to think about our strength in all three skill areas when we are trying to find a career that fits our needs.

1. Find the thesis statement of this essay and write it.
2. Underline the topic sentence in each supporting paragraph.
3. How are the skill categories introduced in part A expanded upon and supported in the essay?
   a) by telling a story;
   b) by giving examples and explaining them;
   c) by introducing more major categories;
   d) by describing the steps in process.
4. Does the author use any of the ideas you suggested in part A to expand this paragraph into an essay? If so, which one(s)?

Ex. 2. Read each thesis statement and answer the questions.

1. Four major components make up the marketing mix of any successful business: the product itself, the product price, the means of product distribution, and the means of product promotion.

b) What aspects will be discussed?
   a) Is this a direct or indirect thesis statement?
   b) How many paragraphs will there probably be in the body of this essay?
   c) Does the writer express an opinion in this thesis statement? If so, what is it?

2. Depression strikes an increasing number of people each year, and its effects can be devastating.
   a) What is the topic of this essay?
   b) Is this a direct or indirect thesis statement?
   c) What is the purpose of this essay?
3. You only have to scratch the surface to see how damaging competitive sports really are to the overall psychological development of children.
   a) What is the topic of this essay?
   b) Is this a direct or indirect thesis statement?
   c) Does the writer express an opinion in this thesis statement? If so, what is it?

   ✔ The introduction is what readers read first, so it is very important. The introduction should include a hook, something that grabs readers’ attention and makes them want to read further. You can use many techniques for writing introductions, such as:
      - posing an interesting or controversial question or questions;
      - employing the funnel method;
      - using a relevant quotation;
      - making a startling or dramatic observation or describing a scene in a dramatic, humorous, or otherwise interesting way;
      - summing an argument with its head.

   Ex. 3. Study the following introductions, define the types of techniques and comment on them.

   1. If you were to wake up tomorrow morning and have no memory of the past, how would you function? Would you even know who you were? As unlikely as this may seem, it is not impossible. More and more Americans are finding themselves suffering from memory loss, some of it quite fast and without warning. Although one contributor to memory loss is Alzheimer’s disease, there are other major causes as well, which can be classified according to the symptoms they produce.

   2. Life in the twenty-first century is full of new changes and opportunities. The pace of change in all areas of daily life makes it difficult to put these changes and opportunities into perspective. Nevertheless, as the new millennium begins, it is important to take stock of where we have been, where we are today, and where we are going. One of the most obvious places to begin this process is by reviewing the evolution and impact of technology — the technology of the past, technology today, and perhaps most important of all, the likely technology of the future.

   3. American children are exposed to and take part in competitive sports starting at a very early age. By participating in such sports as football, tennis, and basketball, proponents claim, children learn the skill necessary to survive in today’s fiercely competitive world. You only have to scratch the surface, however, to see how damaging competitive sports really are to the overall psychological development of children.

   proponent: someone in favor of something overall: general

   4. Life is just a bowl of cherries. This well-known, anonymous quotation is the motto of the optimist, the well-adjusted. It implies that life is full of good things, ripe for the picking, if only you will yourself the opportunity to pick from among them. However, what if life’s cherries are there for the picking, but they always seem out of your reach? What if, for reasons you can not comprehend, you can not bring yourself to take advantage of the good things in life? Such is the world of the clinically depressed. Depression strikes an increasing number of people each year, and its effects can be devastating.

   devastating: very harmful

   5. He pounced down the court, ball in hands. Deftly sidestepping every obstacle in his path, he barrelled toward the net. Nothing can stop him now. He leaps. For a split second, time stops, and this incredible athlete appears to be suspended in mid-air, his foot just five feet above the floor. Then, suddenly, time starts again and the crowd begins to roar. Michael Jordan has done it again. He has made an extremely difficult shot, again, as though he were born with the ability to leap tall buildings in a single bound. The true story of this athlete’s rise to stardom, however, is one of long suffering, hard work, and seemingly endless obstacles.

   deform: with great skill

   barrel: move forward with strength

   a) The body of an essay contains enough paragraphs to explain, discuss, or prove the essay’s thesis statement. In each body paragraph the writer should discuss one aspect of the essay’s main topic.

   Ex. 4. Read each thesis statement. Then write two possible topic sentences for body paragraphs based on the thesis statements.

   1. Four major components make up the marketing mix of any successful business: the product itself, the product price, the means of product distribution, and the means of product promotion.

   Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph 1: ____________________________

   Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph 2: ____________________________

   2. Depression strikes an increasing number of people each year, and its effects can be devastating.

   Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph 1: ____________________________

   Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph 2: ____________________________
3. You only have to scratch the surface to see how damaging competitive sports really are to the overall psychological development of children.

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph 1:

The conclusion is in an essay is the last paragraph or two. One purpose of all conclusions is to signal the end of the essay. Here are some other purposes for conclusions:
- to add coherence by summarizing or restating the essay subtopics;
- to add coherence by restating the essay thesis;
- to leave the reader with the writer’s final opinion;
- to make a prediction or suggestion about the topic of the essay.

Ex. 5. Read the introduction and the conclusion. Then answer the question.

Introduction: American children are exposed to and take part in competitive sports starting at a very early age. By participating in such sports as football, tennis, and basketball, proponents claim, children learn the skills necessary to survive in today’s fiercely competitive world. You only have to scratch the surface, however, to see how damaging competitive sports really are to the overall psychological development of children.

Conclusion: As it has been demonstrated above, competitive sports can cause severe psychological damage to children. Research shows that, in a society which overvalues the competitive edge, children can easily lose self-confidence and self-motivation when they are forced to engage in competitive sports in which they cannot succeed. In addition, children who are particularly successful in the competitive arena can develop aggressive tendencies which can manifest themselves in adult life as hostility and lack of empathy. In my view, this concentration on competition has become an epidemic in American culture. If something is not done in the near future to curb the American spirit for competitive sports, the youth of today will be unable to function as caring, productive members of the adult world tomorrow.

2. What new purpose(s) have now been added to this conclusion? (Circle all that apply.)
   a) To restate the essay’s thesis statement.
   b) To make a prediction about the essay’s topic.
   c) To leave the reader with the writer’s opinion.
   d) To make a prediction or suggestion about the topic of the essay.

Ex. 6. Read each thesis statement, the topic sentences for the body paragraphs of the essay, and the conclusion. Some conclusions have unity. Others include sentences that introduce new topics and do not have unity. Cross out any sentences in the conclusion that do not belong. (If you want further practice with paragraph writing, develop the topic sentence for each body paragraph into a full paragraph.)

1. Thesis statement: Many facts about the personal life of Albert Einstein surprise us when we first learn about him.

Topic sentences for body paragraphs:
   a) His treatment of women is surprising.
   b) His social awkwardness is surprising.
   c) Some of his political views are surprising.

Conclusion: People are often quite surprised to hear these aspects of Einstein’s personal life. When they learn of them, they sometimes ask themselves such questions as: How could such a great scientist have such disregard for the women in his life? What caused this super-intelligent to be so awkward in the most basic of social situations? And, how could this man whose scientific ideas almost literally transformed the entire thought of the world be so opposed to war? Einstein, who loved all things simple, would have been pleased with the simplicity of the answers to these questions for all his greatness. Albert Einstein was still a human being subject to all of the same strengths and weaknesses as the rest of humankind. Nobody is perfect. Many other scientists, including Robert Oppenheimer, also had imperfect personal lives.

2. Thesis statement: According to health and fitness experts, snowshoeing has recently become a favorite winter sport among college students for three reasons: it is inexpensive, it is not dangerous, and it is a quiet, calming activity.
Topic sentences for body paragraphs:

a) Snowshoeing costs very little, making it affordable even for students with no income.

b) Compared to skiing and snowboarding, snowshoeing is quite safe.

c) Finally, many students like snowshoeing because it is a quiet sport that allows them to appreciate the calm and peacefulness of winter outdoors.

Conclusion: For all of the reasons discussed above, snowshoeing is becoming more and more popular among college-age as a winter sport. Health and fitness experts recommend it to anyone who is looking for an affordable, safe, and quiet way off energy and enjoy the great outdoors during the long winter months.

3. Theme statement: There are five important, albeit time-consuming, steps to successfully painting a room.

Topic sentences for body paragraphs:

a) First, all exposed surfaces that you don’t want to paint need to be protected.

b) Next, you need to prepare the surface that you do want to paint.

c) Cutting in with a small brush is the first step in the actual painting.

d) Once you have cut in, you can use a roller to paint the large surface.

Conclusion: As you can see, it is important to work carefully and methodically when you are painting a room. If you patiently follow the five steps outlined, you will have a beautiful product to show for your labor, and you can sit back, relax, and enjoy your beautiful room for years to come. The initial investment of a little extra time makes it all worthwhile in the end.

Classification Essay

✓ Writers use classification essays to group items according to their similarities and differences.

Ex. 1. Determine the principle of organization for each of the following items and their categories. The first one is done for you.

1. Books: fiction, non-fiction, poetry
   Categories: fiction, non-fiction, poetry

2. Cities: more than 5 million, between 1 million and 5 million, between 500,000 and 1 million, fewer than 500,000
   We can classify cities into four groups according to ____________

3. Beds: twin, double, queen, king
   There are four major ___ of beds.

4. Chocolate: sweet, semi-sweet, bitter
   Chocolate can be classified into three types according to ____________

5. Chocolate: white, milk, dark
   Chocolate can be classified into three types according to ____________

Ex. 2. For each group, think of two different principles of organization and list several categories for each. The first one is done for you.

1. Dogs
   a) Principle of organization 1: size
   Categories: miniature, small, medium, large

2. Friends
   a) Principle of organization 1: categories:
   Categories:

3. Teachers
   a) Principle of organization 1:
   Categories:

✓ To maintain unity in classification essays, it is important to use only one organizing principle when you classify items in the group.
Ex. 3. Determine the principles of organization for each set. Write it on the blank. Draw a line through the category that does not belong. The first one is done for you.

1. Houses: brick, stone, wooden, concrete, small
   Principles of organization: according to what they are made of
   2. Letters: personal, business, long
   Principles of organization: 
   3. Television programs: drama, interesting, soap opera, talk shows, mini-series, news, sports shows
   Principles of organization: 
   4. Sports: contact, team, individual
   Principles of organization: 
   5. Caffeine: Espresso, Brazilian, Colombian, Hawaiian, Kenyan
   Principles of organization: 

✓ Write one many techniques for adding coherence to paragraphs and essays. Effective use of transition expressions is one of the most important of these techniques. For the classification essay one can use the following transition expressions: one another, third, fourth, etc. - classifying word.

Ex. 4. Read the classification essay and answer the post-reading discussion questions.

Ten Thousand Teas

An eighth century Chinese literary man portedly numbered the different types of tea at more than a thousand. The Chinese for 10,000 is the correct number. The variety for something more than 100,000, however, is the major point. The Camellia sinensis is considered by many of the world's population to be the most excellent beverage available. It is the primary plant for most tea. A thousand and a hundred, in Chinese, makes the number of the tea plant. The Chinese poet claimed the far and away the most distinguished from the English breakfast you drank this afternoon?

In fact, there are only three major types of teas: black, green, and oolong. Of these, the difference among them lies not in their origins but in the methods by which they are processed.

One of the most involved processes is oolong. First the leaves are dried in the sun. Then they are usually rolled, often by hand. The rolling breaks down the membranes of the leaves to activate a natural chemical reaction. The leaves are next fermented by letting them dry on woven trays, or by laying them out in a cool place. Oxygen works on the leaves, helping to release their essential oils. This drying takes several days, during which the leaves become reddish and lose a nutty aroma. Once the leaves have fermented for a sufficient length of time, the tea is fired in large ovens or in an oven; this process causes the fermentation to cease. At this point, the leaves which are about 80 percent dry, are then completely dried with more firing of wood or charcoal. Black teas are rich and full-bodied. Perfection tea that gives just the right amount of light pungency and full flavor while allowing for multiple infusions in an art form.

Green teas are not dried before processing, nor are they fermented. The fresh tea leaves that are used for green tea are quickly steamed to halt bacterial and enzymatic action common in fermentation. Next, the leaves are machine rolled lightly to give them a curl, to break up leaf cells, and to free juices and enzymes. Green tea leaves are fired or heat dried. Throughout this process, leaf color is preserved as yellowish-green or green. Because the green tea leaf is not fermented, its chemical makeup is not altered as in black tea processing. This preserves the medicinal and natural flavors as cherished in green teas.

Oolong teas fall in between green and black teas in the degree of fermentation. Tea leaves used for oolong are wilted in the sun just as those for black tea are. They are then treated by steaming in cylindrical bamboo woven baskets. This softens the leaves, which helps promote a brief fermenting process. These two processes are repeated until the leaves become almost transparent and start to yellow or shrivel along the edges, which is a sign of the beginning of fermentation. The centre, however, remains green and the degree of fermentation is far less than that of black tea. As a final step, oolong tea processors roll the large leaves into nugget shapes that settle when they are steeped. Oolong teas are known for their fragrant aromas that soothe and heal.

Since ancient times, tea has been a preferred beverage for much of the world's population. As its popularity has grown, its basic makeup has been retained to suit the taste of tea drinkers around the world. The three basic types of tea have been blended, scented, and packaged in many different ways. They can now be found flavored with flowers and herbs or adorned with herbs and spices. They are sometimes perfumed with oils and sometimes even sprinkled with tiny flakes of perfume metals. It is somewhat misleading to know that each of these three thousand and a thousand types of tea nevertheless comes from one of only three possible humble beginnings, each of which can be treated for its soothing and healing properties.

1. What is the thesis statement of this essay?
2. How many subtopics are there? What are they?

14
3. Where does the writer use question? Do you think they are effective in this position in the essay? Why or why not?
4. Underline the controlling idea of each body paragraph in the essay. Does each body paragraph address one of the subtopics?
5. Does the conclusion successfully signal the end of the essay?
6. What are the two purposes of the conclusion? Does it achieve these purposes?
7. Does the entire essay have unity and coherence? If not, what should be done to add unity and coherence?
8. What is classified in this essay? What principle of organization does the writer use?
9. What is primarily used in this essay to give details about the categories?
a) Examples
b) details of a story
c) description of a process
d) the author’s opinion
✓ Sometimes the passive voice is needed to keep the topic in the subject position.

Ex. 4 In each item below, decide which statement a or b better follows the sentence above it by keeping the topic in the subject position. Circle your choice. The first one is done for you.

1. How would it feel to have the same name as a celebrity? Just ask Indiana University Professor Jack Nicholson.

2. Once, when he went to pick up a pizza that he had ordered over the telephone...

3. a) He was met by fans who wanted his autograph.
b) fans who wanted his autograph texted him.

4. a) He was asked to sign autographs anyway.
b) but they asked him to sign autographs anyway.

5. a) Then his pizza was taken home.
b) Then he took his pizza home.

6. a) The woman at the reservation desk had thought that Dr. Nicholson was joking about his name.
b) For that reason, the reservation had been canceled by her.

✓ Writing, it is necessary to decide on the classification criteria. We should think about what properties we are going to classify things. These criteria must be determining and the grouping classes should be non-overlapping.

In the sample essay about types of computers, the computers are classified according to their functions and capabilities, as:

Sample essay analysis

- **Topic:** 5 types of computers
- **Criterions:** Their functions and capabilities

1. **PC**
   - General use by a single person
   - Desktop: permanent
   - Laptop: portable

2. **Workstation**
   - Used for 3D graphics, game development
   - Have powerful microprocessors, additional memory and enhanced capabilities

3. **Server**
   - Used to provide services to other computers
   - Have powerful processors, less of memory and large hard drives

4. **Mainframe**
   - Used in business
   - Enables hundreds of people to work together

5. **Super computer**
   - Used for jobs that take massive amounts of calculating
   - Very powerful
The introduction of a classification essay is quite straightforward. In the thesis statement, you mention that there are number types of something according to their properties.

In the developmental paragraphs, you need to define each type you mentioned in the thesis. You may also need to show the similarities and/or differences of these types. Giving examples would enable your readers to understand better.

The common transitions used while classifying are the first kind type group, the second kind type group, the third kind type group.

Types of Computers

There are all of them used to describe computers. Most of these words imply the size, expected use, or capability of the computer. While the term microcomputer can apply to virtually any device that has a microprocessor in it, most people think of a computer as a device that receives input from the user through a mouse or keyboard, processes it in some fashion and displays the result on a screen. Computers can be divided into five according to the use they are used for and their capabilities.

The most familiar type of microcomputer is the personal computer (PC). It is designed for general use by a single person. While a Mac is also a PC, most people relate the term with systems that run the Windows operating system. PCs were first known as microcomputers because they were complete computer systems built on a smaller scale than the large systems in use by most businesses.

A PC can come in two types (here we include the Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) that differ from PCs not by the working policy but in appearance as well): Desktop and laptop. The former is not designed for portability. The expectation with desktop systems is that you will use your computer at a permanent location. Most desktops offer more power, storage and versatility for less cost than their portable brethren. On the other hand, the laptops—also called notebooks—are portable computers that integrate the display, keyboard, a pointing device or trackball, processor, memory, and hard drive all in a battery-powered package slightly larger than an average hardcover book.

Another purpose for using a microprocessor is in a workstation. The computers used for this purpose have a more powerful processor, additional memory and enhanced capabilities for performing a special group of tasks, such as 3D Graphics or game development.

A computer can also be used as a server. For this, it needs to be optimized to provide services to other computers over a network. Servers usually have powerful processors, lots of memory and large hard drives.

A fourth type is the mainframe. This is the heart of a network of computers or terminals which allows hundreds of people to work at the same time on the same data. It is indispensable for the business world.

Sometimes, computers can be used for specialized fields as well. The supercomputer is the top of the heap in power and expense. It is used for jobs that require massive amounts of computing, like weather forecasting, engineering design and testing, artificial intelligence, and economic forecasting.

With the increasing demand for different specialties, new adjustments are being made to microprocessors and new types of computers that serve different purposes emerge. In this ongoing process, it would not be possible to put a full stop here. What we suggest is that it is better to keep an eye on the development of science in this field and keep updating our knowledge in order not to be out of date like the computers of old times that were as big as a room.

Ex. 2. Write a classification essay using the following topics. These classification essay topics are based on the classifying approach.

1. Classify the representatives of flora and fauna into groups, i.e. birds, insects, animals, trees, shrubs, flowers.
2. Classify linguistic phenomena, i.e. parts of speech sentence. Divide them into groups and subgroups.
3. Classify inventions according to their significance for mankind, frequency of usage and influence on the development of the human race.
4. Classify historical events chronologically, for instance wars Belarus participated in.
5. Classify lodgers of your house according to the age rate.
6. Classify countries according to the density and quantity of their population.
7. Classify cars by their trade marks.
8. Classify countries according to the quantity of beautiful people living in these countries.
9. Classify countries according to the quantity of chocolate consumers.

Ex. 3. Write a classification essay using the topics which are based on the rating and evaluating approach.

1. Rate your favorite TV programs, movies, talk shows according to your personal likes and dislikes.
2. Rate countries from the most economically prosperous to the economically unstable.
3. Rate hotels according to the quantity of stars they have got.
4. Rate allines from best to worst leaning on your personal experience.
5. Evaluate malls and supermarkets according to the quantity of services they offer.
6. Evaluate cafes, bars, restaurants according to the frequency you visit them with your friends.
7. Rate higher educational establishments in Belarus by utilities they require.
Seminar 2

Theoretical materials for revision.

A Process Essay
Comparison/Contrast essays

Consolidation exercises

1. Writers use process essays to explain the steps or stages in a process or procedure. A process essay is organized chronologically, that is in order of time. Process essays describe steps or stages that follow each other in time.

2. Process essays can be of two types: instructional and analytical.

Ex. 1. Identify each process essay thesis statement as instructional (I) or analytical (A). The first one is done for you.

1) Follow this recipe and you’ll end up with a heavenly angel food cake. – I
2) The digestive process involves several related steps.
3) All it takes to build a beautiful deck is the right tools and these easy-to-use guidelines.
4) To test the chlorine in your swimming pool water, use this test kit and follow the instructions carefully.
5) By 7.00 in the morning, a sleepy Tucker has already completed a series of very demanding chores to get his sheep ready for the day.

Ex. 2. In each list of steps below, one important step or stage is missing. Insert it where it belongs.

1) Planting a tree.
   - Dig a hole the width and depth of the root ball.
   - Remove any covering from the root ball of the tree.
   - Put the tree in the hole.
   - Fill the hole back up again, and tamp the soil down around the tree.

2) Repairing a scratched compact disk (CD).
   - Listen to the CD and note where the worst skips are.
   - Take out the CD, hold it by the edge, and wipe the shiny side gently with mild soap and water to remove dust and fingerprints. Rinse carefully.
   - Using a lint-free cloth, dry the CD surface from the center to the other edge. Do not move a circular motion.
   - Now, hold the shiny side of the CD under a bright light and look for weeds.

3) The water cycle.
   - Warming the sun causes water to evaporate from surface of lakes, oceans, and rivers.
   - Clouds become heavy with moisture.
   - The cycle begins again.

Ex. 3. Each list includes one or more irrelevant steps or stages. Underline the sentences with the irrelevant information. The first one is done for you.

1) Basic steps for keeping your swimming pool clean:
   - They formulate a hypothesis and base a prediction on this hypothesis.
   - They test the hypothesis using one of the number of techniques.
   - They apply the techniques.
   - They analyze the results of the test.
   - They draw conclusions about the hypothesis.
   - They end the experiment or refine the hypothesis and begin again.

2) Basic steps for constructing a birdhouse:
   - Choose the proper materials.
   - Decide what to include and what to omit.
   - Your process should be complete and not leave out any important steps.

3) Basic steps for building a deck:
   - Choose the proper tools.
   - Decide what to include and what to omit.
   - Your process should be complete and not leave out any important steps.

4) Basic steps for making a pizza:
   - Choose the proper dough.
   - Decide what to include and what to omit.
   - Your process should be complete and not leave out any important steps.

5) Basic steps for preparing a meal:
   - Choose the proper ingredients.
   - Decide what to include and what to omit.
   - Your process should be complete and not leave out any important steps.
How to make a vinaigrette salad dressing.

- Gather the following ingredients: 3–4 tablespoons olive oil, 3 tablespoons mustard, 1 tablespoon vinegar, salt and pepper to taste.
- Next, gradually add the oil, stirring it slowly into other two ingredients.
- Contrary to popular opinion, olive oil is good for you.
- Finally, add salt and pepper to taste.
- We eat this almost every night.

3 The beating of the human heart.

- The arteries contract, squeezing as much blood into the ventricles as they can hold.
- The ventricles contract. Pressure of blood within them forces the cuspal valves (which open inward from the arteries) to close and the semilunar valves (which open outward into the arteries) to open.
- Blood spurts into the arteries.
- At this point, the beating of the human heart and the beating of the cat heart begin to differ.
- The ventricles relax and pressure in them falls. Pressure of the blood just pumped into the arteries closes the semilunar valves.
- Pressure of blood in the arteries opens the cuspal valves, and blood flows into the ventricles.
- Blood continues to flow into the arteries and into the ventricles as the entire heart is relaxed and rests briefly.
- Contraction begins again.

Ex. 4:

a) The following essay was written by a cat lover. The paragraphs in this process essay are not all in the correct order. Number them from 1 to 7 to indicate the best order.

Cat Bathing as a Martial Art

Many people think that bathing a cat is difficult, but it is really quite easy if you follow a few simple steps.

1 First of all, keep in mind that although a cat has the advantage of quickness and lack of concern for human life, you have the advantage of strength. Capitalize on that advantage by selecting the battle/field. Don't try to bathe him in an open area where he can force you to chase him. Pick a very small bathroom with a tightly-closing door.

Ex. 5. Read the process essay. Fill in the blanks with transition expressions from the list below. Use each expression once only. Then answer the post-reading discussion questions.

2 Now it is time to bring in the cat. To do this, use the element of surprise. Pick up your cat nonchalantly, as if to simply carry him to his supper dish. Once you are inside the bathroom, speed is essential for your next move. In a single motion, shut the bathroom door, step into the tub enclosures, dip the cat in the water, and splash him with shampoo. You have begun the wildest 45 seconds of your life.

3 Once your cat has gotten wet and soapy, do not expect to be able to hang on to him for more than a few seconds. He will be slippery and will wiggle free and fall back into the water. This will irritate him off. You can try shampooing him a second time, but check your net first and make sure that it is tightly fastened in case he makes a grab for you.

4 Once you have chosen the site of the crime, it is time to prepare everything. There will be no time to go out for a towel when you have a catunking its claws into your leg. Fill the bathtub with warm water, put the kitty shampoo within easy reach, and dress yourself in heavy protective clothing (I recommend combat boots, a helmet, and heavy overalls) before you begin.

5 In a few days, the cat will relax enough to be removed from your leg. He will usually have nothing to say for about three weeks and will spend a lot of time sitting with his back to you. You will be tempted to assume that he is angry. This isn't usually the case. As a rule he is simply plotting ways to get through your defenses and to carry you for life the next time you decide to give him a bath.

6 Next, the cat must be dried. Notice our order assume that this part will be the most difficult, for humans generally are worn out by this time. However, drying is actually simple compared to what you have just been through. That's because by now the cat is semi-permanently affixed to your right leg. You simply pop the drain plug with your foot, reach for your towel, and wait. After all the water is drained off the tub, it is a simple matter to reach down and dry the cat.

7 At least now he smells a lot better.

b) Read your reordered essay to your partner.

Does your new order make this essay coherent?
Did you both choose the same order?

✓ Transition expressions in the Process Essay: First (second, third etc.), next, now, then, and finally, before, after, since, as soon as, and while, during, over between – noun phrase.

Ex. 5. Read the process essay. Fill in the blanks with transition expressions from the list below. Use each expression once only. Then answer the post-reading discussion questions.
While finally during our next before after between

**Baby Talk**

1. For many parents, a child's first words, uttered at around one year of age, mark the first real evidence of language development—the child has returned to talking. However, this ignores a great deal of early progress during the first year, without which no first word would emerge at all. This progress is made in several areas, including sound production, speech perception, and speech interaction. Sound production is one of the easiest to recognize and one of the most fascinating. Sound production begins at birth, and by the age of eighteen months, the average child has gone through five unique and important stages of growth in the production of the sounds which eventually open up to her the wonderful world of communication through language.

2. The first stage of sound production, Stage I (0-3 weeks), consists of basic biological noises. For the first few weeks of life, a baby's vocal sounds directly reflect her biological state and activities. States of hunger or discomfort that cause crying and fussing are common in this stage.

3. By six and eight weeks, the first cooing sounds are produced. These sounds gradually become more frequent and more varied as the child responds to the smiles and speech of adults. Cooing is more musical and quieter than crying. Later in this same period, cooing sounds are strong together—often ten or more at a time. Some of these sequences such as [ga] and [ga] begin to resemble the syllables of adult speech. The baby is learning to coo; she is also learning to laugh. The first chuckles and laughs emerge at about four months of age.

4. The baby starts to coo and laugh, the entire Stage II (6-20 weeks).

5. In this stage, vocal play begins. The sounds of vocal play are much more complex and longer than those of cooing. They are also quite varied as the baby begins to experiment with different sound combinations. In addition, there seems to be a strong element of practice in the activities of this period. Anyone who has observed it will also recognize that it usually provides a great deal of enjoyment for parents and child alike as they play together with the sounds of language.

6. The baby begins to show signs of using real language, she passes through one more stage—Stage III (20-50 weeks). This is the babbling stage. Babbling is much less varied than the sounds of vocal play. A small set of sounds is used with greater frequency and stability to produce sequence like [babba], which repeat themselves. Later, this babbling becomes complex, often including non-sound sounds. Most babbling consists of a small set of sounds very similar to those used in the early language to be spoken by the child.

7. The child enters Stage IV (9-18 weeks). While babbling continues during the stage, a new vocalization also emerges. The Stage V baby begins to produce proper words. Parents begin to sense intentions behind these utterances, with their more well-formed shape, and often feel they have meaning such as questioning, calling, greeting, or warning. These are the first real signs of language development, and it is at Stage V that children growing up in different language environments begin to sound increasingly unlike each other.

8. People who do not know about the stages of language development in children often recognize speech only at Stage V. How much they are missing! Each stage in a baby's journey to language production is distinct and interesting. Each is important in helping the baby take her shaky steps toward being a competent communicator in her first language.

**Optional Practical Exercises**

1. What kind of process essay is this, instructional or analytical?
2. Is the first paragraph,Indeed the progression of information from general to specific. What introductory technique is the writer using?
3. Underline the thesis statement. Does it introduce the process that will be discussed in the essay? What is this process?
4. Just looking at the thesis statement, how many paragraphs do you think this essay will contain?
5. Does the entire essay have unity? If not, what should be done to add unity to the essay?
6. List and label the stages covered in this essay.
7. Are these stages described in the correct chronological order to make the order coherent?
8. Check the purpose(s) of the conclusion to this essay:
   - __________ to add coherence to the essay by summarizing or re-stating the essay subtopics;
   - __________ to leave the reader with the writer's final thought;
   - __________ to make a prediction or suggestion about the topic of the essay.
9. Does the conclusion sum up the process and discuss its results?

35
Ex. 1. Learn how to write a process essay.

A process of digestion

Introduction

1. Thesis: Ingestion, digestion, and absorption are the three major steps involved in the digestive process.
2. Food is ingested.
   a. Food enters the mouth.
   b. Food is chewed.
   c. Food is ready to travel to the stomach.
3. Food is digested.
   a. Food is mixed with acidic gastric juices in the stomach.
   b. The partially liquid food moves from the stomach to the small intestine.
   c. Enzymes are secreted.
4. Absorption.
   a. The digested food passes through the walls of the small intestine.
   b. The digested food is absorbed into the bloodstream.
5. Conclusion.

Preliminary Thesis: The digestion process involves three major steps: ingestion, digestion, and absorption.

Process Essay Pattern of Organization

Introduction

1. State what the process is and why it is important.
   The digestive process is important in maintaining the lives of living organisms and in providing them with needed energy.
2. Give background information, and define the process.
   Groups of organs, such as the mouth, esophagus, stomach, and intestines, work together to perform this complex task. Digestion is the process of breaking down food from large molecules into smaller ones to make it easier for absorption.
3. State the thesis sentence to include the purpose and the main idea of the essay.
   The three major steps involved in the digestive process are ingestion, digestion, and absorption.

Body Paragraphs
A paragraph consists of the following:
• Topic sentence.
   Ingestion, which occurs in the mouth, is the first step in the digestive process.
• Major supporting sentence(s).
   After food enters the mouth, the teeth chew it.
   AIDP
   Saliva, which is produced by the salivary glands, plays a major role in breaking down the food into smaller pieces.
• Major supporting sentence(s).
   These small pieces travel to the stomach through the esophagus.
When you write an essay body paragraph, you need to remember two points.
First, each topic sentence must not only contain the main idea of the paragraph, but also that main idea must be a main point of the thesis sentence. Furthermore, the body paragraphs must be written in the order that the main points are listed in the thesis sentence. For example, if you write that the three major steps involved in the digestive process are ingestion, digestion, and absorption, then your first body paragraph must be about ingestion, the second about digestion, and the final body paragraph about absorption.

Concluding Paragraph
1. Paraphrase the thesis sentence.
2. Summarize the main steps of the process.

The Completed Essay
A PROCESS OF DIGESTION

The digestive process is important in maintaining the lives of living organisms and in providing them with needed energy. Groups of organs, such
in the mouth. esophagus, stomach, and intestines, work together to perform this complex task. Digestion is the process of breaking down food from large molecules into small ones to make it easier for absorption. The three major steps involved in the digestive process are ingestion, digestion, and absorption.

Ingestion, which occurs in the mouth, is the first step of the digestive process. After food enters the mouth, the teeth chew it. Saliva, which is produced by the salivary glands, plays a major role in breaking down the food into smaller pieces. These small pieces travel to the stomach through the esophagus.

In the stomach, the second step of the digestive process begins. When the chewed food reaches the bottom of the esophagus, a valve lets the food enter the stomach. Contraction of the stomach wall mixes the food. Acidic gastric juices, which are secreted by the gastric glands in the stomach, help in mixing the food and in turning it into a partial liquid so it will have the ability to move into the small intestine. In the small intestine, enzymes are secreted, and digestion is completed.

The last step in the digestive process is absorption. Absorption takes place in the small intestine. Fluid from the small intestine, filtered through small finger-like projections called villi. Small molecules of food are absorbed by the large number of villi. Some of these absorbed molecules enter the bloodstream to be distributed throughout the whole body.

In conclusion, the digestive process involves three major steps: ingestion, digestion, and absorption. Ingestion, which occurs in the mouth, helps to increase the surface area of the food particles and prepares them for digestion. In the stomach, digestion begins, and it continues until it reaches the small intestine, where absorption takes place. The digestive process maintains organisms lives by providing them with energy needed for different functions.

Ex. 2. Write a process essay choosing one of the topics written below.

1. How to lose weight without losing your mind.
2. How to choose a major.
3. How to find the perfect roommate.
4. How to get rid of a roommate — without committing a crime.
5. How to succeed in (or turn out of) college.
6. How to pitch a knuckleball.
7. How to plan the perfect party.
8. How to survive a night of partying.
9. How to pitch a tent in the rain.
10. How to break a dog's habit.
11. How to kick a bad habit.
12. How to overcome insomnia.
13. How to stay sober on a Saturday night.

14. How to rent your first apartment.
15. How to avoid a nervous breakdown during exams.
16. How to keep peace with a spouse or a roommate.
17. How to bathe a cat.
18. How to complain effectively.
19. How to survive a recession.
20. How to train a baby.
22. How to use Twitter.
23. How to wash a sweater.
24. How to end a relationship.
25. How to select the best portable media player.
26. How to take decent photographs with your cell phone.
27. How to quit smoking.
28. How to survive without a car.
29. How to make the perfect cup of tea.
30. How to save money while saving the environment.
31. How to build a great website.
32. How to edit a video.
33. How to make (and keep) friends on Facebook.
34. How to insert a contact lens.
35. How teachers make up exams.
36. How parents (or children) make us feel guilty.
37. How an iPod works.
38. How ice cream is made.
39. How a cell phone takes pictures.
40. How a magician saw a woman in half.

Comparison/Contrast Essays

Consolidation exercises

Writers use comparison/contrast essays when they want to explain or contrast one or more things. Writers can emphasize the similarities, differences, or both the similarities and differences of the things they are comparing and contrasting.

- Transition expressions for comparison/contrast essays:

  Both (used) and (never)... nevertheless; on one hand... on the other hand; in contrast, whereas: unlike + nouns, like + nouns, conversely, although, even though, though.
Ex. 1. Read each topic and outline below. Decide whether the method of organization for the essay is comparison, contrast, or contrast/comparsion.

1. Topic: basketball and tennis.
   a. Tennis requires a great deal of stamina, and basketball does, too.
   b. In both sports, there is a great deal of action, and players score numerous points.
   c. Tennis and basketball are popular in countries all over the world.

   a. The male characters usually play the hero role while the females usually play the helper role.
   b. The female characters are usually described in terms of their physical appearance, but the male characters are described in terms of their abilities.
   c. Though female characters often have to make some sort of sacrifice, male characters rarely do.

3. Topic: Spanish and English.
   a. Spanish and English use a similar alphabet. In addition, the basic grammar of the two languages is very similar.
   b. Spanish verbs conjugate in much more detail than that of English. In addition, English nouns have fewer forms than Spanish nouns.

4. Topic: Switzerland and Bolivia.
   a. Neither Switzerland nor Bolivia has a coastline.
   b. Mountains make up a large area of both countries.
   c. The inhabitants of both countries have been relatively isolated over the past few centuries.

Ex. 2. Work with a partner. For each topic and organization listed, complete the outlines with appropriate supporting points. The first one is done for you.

1. A. Cats as pets and dogs as pets (compare).
   Similarity 1: Most cats and dogs are friendly animals.
   Similarity 2: Caring for cats and dogs is a fairly easy task.

Ex. 3:

a) Choose the two people and two places to compare and contrast. Then decide on three categories for each that you will use to compare and contrast. For example, for two people, the categories might be personality, looks, and accomplishments. Then fill in details for each category:

Person A and person B. (Be sure the two people are «equivalent» i.e., they are both politicians, actors, historical figures, etc.).

Person A: 
Person B: 

Similarity 3: Cats and dogs live relatively long lives.

B. Cats as pets and dogs as pets (contrast).

Difference 1: Dogs like to be petted, but cats are often very aloof.
Difference 2: Dogs need to go outdoors often, but cats can live indoors.
Difference 3: Dogs do not scratch furniture, but cats do.

2. A. _______ (your native language) and English (compare).
   Similarity 1: 
   Similarity 2: 
   Similarity 3: 

B. _______ (your native language) and English (contrast).
   Difference 1: 
   Difference 2: 
   Difference 3: 

3. _______ using the library for sources to write a research paper and using the Internet (compare).
   Similarity 1: 
   Similarity 2: 
   Similarity 3: 

B. _______ using the library for sources to write a research paper and using the Internet (contrast).
   Difference 1: 
   Difference 2: 
   Difference 3: 

Ex. 3: 

a) Choose the two people and two places to compare and contrast. Then decide on three categories for each that you will use to compare and contrast. For example, for two people, the categories might be personality, looks, and accomplishments. Then fill in details for each category:

Person A and person B. (Be sure the two people are «equivalent» i.e., they are both politicians, actors, historical figures, etc.).

Person A: 
Person B: 

Similarity 3: Cats and dogs live relatively long lives.

B. Cats as pets and dogs as pets (contrast).

Difference 1: Dogs like to be petted, but cats are often very aloof.
Difference 2: Dogs need to go outdoors often, but cats can live indoors.
Difference 3: Dogs do not scratch furniture, but cats do.

2. A. _______ (your native language) and English (compare).
   Similarity 1: 
   Similarity 2: 
   Similarity 3: 

B. _______ (your native language) and English (contrast).
   Difference 1: 
   Difference 2: 
   Difference 3: 

3. _______ using the library for sources to write a research paper and using the Internet (compare).
   Similarity 1: 
   Similarity 2: 
   Similarity 3: 

B. _______ using the library for sources to write a research paper and using the Internet (contrast).
   Difference 1: 
   Difference 2: 
   Difference 3: 

Ex. 3: 

a) Choose the two people and two places to compare and contrast. Then decide on three categories for each that you will use to compare and contrast. For example, for two people, the categories might be personality, looks, and accomplishments. Then fill in details for each category:

Person A and person B. (Be sure the two people are «equivalent» i.e., they are both politicians, actors, historical figures, etc.).

Person A: 
Person B: 

Similarity 3: Cats and dogs live relatively long lives.

B. Cats as pets and dogs as pets (contrast).

Difference 1: Dogs like to be petted, but cats are often very aloof.
Difference 2: Dogs need to go outdoors often, but cats can live indoors.
Difference 3: Dogs do not scratch furniture, but cats do.

2. A. _______ (your native language) and English (compare).
   Similarity 1: 
   Similarity 2: 
   Similarity 3: 

B. _______ (your native language) and English (contrast).
   Difference 1: 
   Difference 2: 
   Difference 3: 

3. _______ using the library for sources to write a research paper and using the Internet (compare).
   Similarity 1: 
   Similarity 2: 
   Similarity 3: 

B. _______ using the library for sources to write a research paper and using the Internet (contrast).
   Difference 1: 
   Difference 2: 
   Difference 3: 

Ex. 3: 

a) Choose the two people and two places to compare and contrast. Then decide on three categories for each that you will use to compare and contrast. For example, for two people, the categories might be personality, looks, and accomplishments. Then fill in details for each category:

Person A and person B. (Be sure the two people are «equivalent» i.e., they are both politicians, actors, historical figures, etc.).

Person A: 
Person B: 

Similarity 3: Cats and dogs live relatively long lives.

B. Cats as pets and dogs as pets (contrast).

Difference 1: Dogs like to be petted, but cats are often very aloof.
Difference 2: Dogs need to go outdoors often, but cats can live indoors.
Difference 3: Dogs do not scratch furniture, but cats do.

2. A. _______ (your native language) and English (compare).
   Similarity 1: 
   Similarity 2: 
   Similarity 3: 

B. _______ (your native language) and English (contrast).
   Difference 1: 
   Difference 2: 
   Difference 3: 

3. _______ using the library for sources to write a research paper and using the Internet (compare).
   Similarity 1: 
   Similarity 2: 
   Similarity 3: 

B. _______ using the library for sources to write a research paper and using the Internet (contrast).
   Difference 1: 
   Difference 2: 
   Difference 3: 
Ex. 4

a) Answer the following discussion questions:
1. Here is a partial list of films that actress Julia Roberts starred in. Which of these films have you seen? What was Julia Roberts’s role in these movies?
   a) Pretty Woman;
   b) Erin Brockovich;
   c) My Best Friend’s Wedding;
   d) _______ (Add another Julia Roberts film that you have seen).
2. Do you see any similarities in the characters that Roberts usually plays? If so, what are they?
   _______ (Include one similarity or contrast. Fill in the blanks with transition expressions listed here. Then answer the postreading questions.)
   Like, although, however, not only... but also, both... and

b) Read the comparison/contrast essay. Fill in the blanks with transition expressions listed here. Then answer the postreading questions.

Exposing the Popularity of Julia Roberts’ Characters

1. According to a recent Julia Roberts, “What’s new about my dating life is that I don’t have to leave my house. All I have to do is read the paper. I’m marrying Richard Gere, dating Daniel Day-Lewis... and even Robert De Niro was there for a day. What makes Roberts such a popular person in both regular and gossip papers is the type of movie character that she plays. The public loves her characters and her acting. Two of the most widely acclaimed movies in which she has starred are Pretty Woman and Erin Brockovich. In Pretty Woman, which was released in 1990, Roberts plays the role of Vivian Ward, a Hollywood Boulevard prostitute who meets and falls in love with Edward, a handsome and rich businessman. In 1998 release of Erin Brockovich, Roberts plays the real-life role of Erin Brockovich, a broke, out-of-work single mother who takes a clerical job at a law firm where she ends up fighting a long legal battle against a large power company that is responsible for the deaths and illnesses of several people.

2. First of all... Vivian
   Vivian is a prostitute without much money. When Edward takes care of her for seven days, it is the first time that she has stayed in such a nice hotel and eaten in elegant restaurants. Similarly, Erin is broke. She has lost her job and is desperately looking for employment because she has to take care of her children. Clearly, the impoverished conditions that these two characters face are an integral part of who they are and why they act as they do in the stories.

3. In addition to the fact that they are both poor, Vivian and Erin are also both endearings. They have each faced difficulties that seemed insurmountable. Though hard work and some well-timed luck, however, they are able to overcome their problems. Vivian’s problem involves her love for someone who is unlikely to return her affections. Vivian makes the mistake of falling in love with one of her clients, Edward, who is extremely rich and belongs to another social class. Nevertheless, he also falls in love with Vivian. In the end, Vivian is able to realize her dream of a better life. Erin, _______ (from a difficult battle as she confronts a huge corporation that has been accused of polluting land areas and harming people. Through hard work, determination, and some luck, Erin is eventually able to defeat the corporation. Neither character at first seems likely to be able to succeed against the difficult circumstances that face her.

4. Finally both characters are able to maintain a certain level of grace despite the awful problems that they face. Vivian gives helpful advice to her best friend, who is also a prostitute with even less chance of escaping her street job. __________ Vivian, Erin has reached bottom. She is a mother with absolutely no money to feed her children. She has nowhere to turn for help. Through all this, _______ (we never get a sense that Erin has given up or lost her hope. She does everything possible to find a job that might help her family out of trouble. For many audience members, one of the truly appealing aspects of both characters is the fact that they are able to keep their spirits high even though life has thrown them some real curve.

5. Though Vivian in Pretty Woman as a prostitute and Erin in Erin Brockovich as an out-of-work mother might not seem so similar at first glance, a closer look at these two characters reveals that they are similar in at least three
important ways. First of all, both Vivian and Erin are poor, a fact that motivates their actions to some degree... Vivian and Erin are underdogs who are able to overcome tremendous obstacles to reach their goals. Finally, both characters are able to accomplish all of this while maintaining a certain level of grace. Despite the differences in these characters, perhaps it is their similarities that have attracted so many millions of moviegoers to "Pretty Woman" and "Erin Brockovich.

Postreading Discussion Questions

1. What is the thesis statement of this essay?
2. Is the writer comparing or contrasting?
3. What is the evidence that supports the claim?
4. Complete this list of paragraph topics:
   - Paragraph 1: Introduction
   - Paragraph 2: the poverty of both characters
   - Paragraph 3: ____________
   - Paragraph 4: ____________
   - Paragraph 5: Conclusion
5. Unity: A good writer can achieve unity by providing appropriate supporting details. In paragraph 4, what examples of problems and grace does the writer give for each character?

Examples of problems
Vivian
Erin

Examples of grace

6. Does the conclusion offer a suggestion, opinion, or prediction?

Ex. 5:

a. Answer the preread discussion questions
   1. Have you studied mostly American or British English? Why?
   2. In what ways are American English and British English different?
   3. Can you write a sentence that would have a very different meaning for a speaker of American English than it would for a speaker of British English?

b. Read the comparison/contrast essay and answer the questions.

Two Kinds of English

1. Most of us are familiar with the song lyrics: "You say poTAto and I say poMATo, you say umAYo and I say umAYo. These lyrics exemplify one of the differences between American and British English, the two most widely spoken varieties of global English. Despite the seemingly endless number of similarities between the two, significant differences between American English and British English in these specific linguistic areas make each one quite distinct from the other.

2. Pronunciation is perhaps the first difference that people notice between American and British English. Some individual sounds are consistently different. For example, poTAto in American English comes out as poMATo in British English. WatEr in American English is pronounced as wotEl in British English. Tus in American English comes out as TUS in British English. Furthermore, certain whole words are pronounced quite differently. Schedule is pronounced with a k-sound in American English but with an s-sound in British English. The stress in the vowel combination in American English is on the second syllable, so it is pronounced Allumizn by Americans. Stress in this same word in British English is on the third syllable, so British English speakers pronounce it Alumizn. These pronunciation differences, though noticeable, do not impede normal communication. In addition, neither American English nor British English has a pronunciation that is significantly different.

3. A second difference is spelling. One example of this is the spelling of the words preceding the letter e in certain words. Americans write color and endurance. In British English, however, these same words would be written colour and endurance. Another obvious spelling difference is in the final syllable in words that end in -or in American English and -our in British English. Examples of this include could in American English with coulour in British English. Another common example is mould versus mould.

4. Finally, perhaps the most striking difference between American and British English is vocabulary. For whatever reason, people tend to notice vocabulary much more than they do pronunciation or spelling. Some words exist in American English but not in British English, and vice versa. For example, traffic circle and windshield are American English words while macaroni (macaroni) and queue (a line of people) are British English words. In addition, there are words that exist in both varieties of English, but they have totally different meanings. For example, in British English, biscuits are sweet (American English translation: cookies), but biscuits in American English are small, soft round biscuits. In British English, a bonnet is a window in a car, while in American English, a bonnet is a kind of woman’s hat.

5. All the languages have local dialects or regional variations, but for historical, geographical, and perhaps political reasons, English has two influential varieties: American English and British English. These variants are different, yet they are similar enough that the differences that do exist in pronunciation, spelling, and vocabulary make hinder communication.

31
Modern technology making the world a smaller place, it is likely that these two varieties of English will gradually lose most of their unique characteristics and therefore become more similar.

**Forced Discussion Questions**

1. What is the thesis statement of this essay?
2. How many subtopics are there? What are they?
3. Is this a comparison, contrast or comparison/contrast essay?
4. Complete this list of paragraph topics.
   - Paragraph 1:
   - Paragraph 2:
   - Paragraph 3:
   - Paragraph 4:
   - Paragraph 5:
5. Briefly write the quotation that this essay begins with. Explain how this quote is related to the content of this essay.
6. Unity: A good writer can achieve unity by providing appropriate supporting details. Repeat the supporting details in paragraph 4 about the two kinds of vocabulary differences between American English and British English. What are the two types of differences and what examples does the author use to support them?
   - Differences 1:
   - Examples of 1:
   - Differences 2:
   - Examples of 2:
7. Does the conclusion offer a suggestion, opinion, or prediction?

**Optional Practical Exercises**

Ex. 1. Read and analyze Mark Twain's then-and-now comparison essay excerpted from his autobiographical Life on the Mississippi. American humorist Mark Twain considers what may be lost as well as gained through knowledge and experience.

**Two Ways of Seeing a River by Mark Twain (1835-1910)**

Now when I had mastered the language of this water and had come to know every trifling feature that bordered the great river as familiarly as I knew the letters of the alphabet, I had made a valuable acquisition. But I had lost something, too. I had lost something which could never be restored to me while I lived. All the grace, the beauty, the poetry had gone out of the majestic river! I still keep in mind a certain wonderful sunset which I witnessed when steamboating was new to me. A broad expanse of the river was turned to blood; in the middle distance the red had brightened into gold, through which a solitary log came floating, black and conspicuous; then one place a long, slanting mark lay speaking upon the water, in another the surface was broken by boiling, tumbling rings, that were as many-lined as an opal; while the ruddy flush was reflected, was a smooth spot that was covered with graceful circles and radiating lines, ever so delicately traced; the shore on our left was densely wooded, and the mountain shadow that fell from this forest was broken in one place by a long, serrated trail that shone like silver, and high above over the forest wall a dense-stemmed dead tree waved a single languid branch that glowed like a flame in the unbroken splendor that was flowing from the sun. There were graceful curves, reflected images, woody heights, soft distances; and over the whole scene, far and near, the dissolving lights drifted steadily, enriching it, every passing moment, with new marvels of coloring.

I stood like one bewildered. I drank it in, in a speechless manner. The world was now to me, and I had never seen anything like this at home. But as I have said, a day came when I began to cease from noting the glooms and the shadows which the moon and the sun and the twilight wrought upon the river's face; another day came when I ceased altogether to note them. Then, if that sunlit scene had been repeated, I should have looked upon it without capture, and should have commented upon it, inwardly, in this fashion: "This sun means that we are going to have wild to-morrow; that floating log means that the river is rising; small thanks to it; that slanting mark on the water refers to a bluffs reef which is going to kill somebody's steamboat one of these nights, if it keeps on stretching out like that; those tumbling boils show a discharging bar and a changing channel; these; the lines and circles in the slick water over yonder are a warning that that troublesome place is shucking up dangerously; that silver streak, in the shadow of the forest is the break from a new snag, and he has located himself in the very best place he could have found to fish for steamboats; that tall dead tree, with a single living branch, is not going to last long, and then how is a body ever going to get through this blind place at night without the friendly old landmarks?"

No, the sensation and the beauty were all gone from the river. All the value any feature of it had for me now was the amount of usefulness it could furnish toward combating the soft plighting of a steamboat. Since those days, I have piled doctors from my heart. What does the lovely flush in a beauty's cheek mean in a doctor but a "breaks that ripples above some deadly disease?" Are not
Ex. 2. Write a comparison/contrast essay choosing one of the topics below.

1. Two stages of a person’s life.
2. Two places you have visited.
3. Two perspectives on the same place: past and present.
4. Two perspectives on the same place: morning and night.
5. Two fast-food restaurants.
6. An online class compared to a traditional class.
7. The Toyota Camry hybrid and the Camry sedan.
8. Two candidates competing for public office.
9. Two pets in the same household.
10. Two professional athletes.
11. Two views of your parents before and after you left home.
12. Your experiences before and after giving up a bad habit.
13. Two neighborhoods.
14. Two ways to break a bad habit.
15. A real vacation and a dream vacation.
16. Two video games.
17. Two classes in the same subject: one in high school and the other in college.
18. The car you own and the car you dream of owning.
19. Two types of exercise.
20. Two ways of studying for an exam.
21. Two sports fans.
22. Two ways of losing weight: one healthy, the other dangerous.
23. Your family home and the house of your dreams.
24. Harry Potter – on the page and on the screen.
25. Two memorable teachers or professors.
26. Two workplaces.
27. Two coffee shops.
28. Two close friends.
29. Two ways of downloading music or movies.
30. An active student and a passive student.