IELTS WRITING DIFFICULTIES THAT STUDENTS FACE AND SOLUTIONS

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Annotation: This study examines the challenges students face in the IELTS Writing section and suggests effective solutions to enhance their performance. Common difficulties include grammatical errors, limited vocabulary, poor time management, and difficulties in structuring responses. Many students also struggle with coherence, cohesion, and fully addressing the task prompt. The study highlights strategies such as grammar practice, vocabulary expansion, structured essay planning, and effective time management. By applying these methods, students can improve their writing skills, develop confidence, and achieve higher band scores in the IELTS Writing test.

Аннотация: В данном исследовании рассматриваются трудности, с которыми сталкиваются студенты в разделе "Письмо" экзамена IELTS, и предлагаются эффективные решения для улучшения их результатов. Основные проблемы включают грамматические ошибки, ограниченный словарный запас, слабое управление временем и трудности с построением ответов. Многие студенты также испытывают сложности с логикой изложения, связностью текста и полным раскрытием темы. В исследовании предлагаются стратегии, такие как грамматическая практика, расширение словарного запаса, структурированное планирование эссе и эффективное распределение времени. Применяя эти методы, студенты могут улучшить свои навыки письма, обрести уверенность и достичь более высоких баллов на экзамене IELTS.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu tadqiqot IELTS yozma bo'limida talabalar duch keladigan qiyinchiliklarni o'rganib chiqadi va ularning natijalarini yaxshilash uchun samarali yechimlarni taklif qiladi. Eng keng tarqalgan muammolar qatoriga grammatik xatolar, cheklangan lug'at boyligi, vaqtni noto'g'ri taqsimlash va javoblarni to'g'ri tuza olmaslik kiradi. Shuningdek, ko'plab talabalar mantiqiy izchillik, bog'liqlik va topshiriq talablarini to'liq tushunish bilan bog'liq muammolarga duch kelishadi. Tadqiqotda grammatika mashqlari, lug'at boyligini kengaytirish, insholarni rejalashtirish va vaqtni samarali boshqarish kabi strategiyalar tavsiya etiladi. Ushbu usullarni qo'llash orqali talabalar yozish ko'nikmalarini oshirishlari, ishonch hosil qilishlari va IELTS yozma imtihonida yuqori natijalarga erishishlari mumkin.

Introduction

Nowadays, many students struggle to achieve their desired band score in the Writing section of IELTS due to various factors, including insufficient grammatical knowledge, limited vocabulary, ineffective time management, and a lack of familiarity with essay structures. Zhang (2020) stated, "Students often fail to develop their ideas coherently, leading to weak task responses and reduced scores." Additionally, some candidates find it difficult to fully address the task requirements, leading to lower scores in task achievement. Others experience difficulty in maintaining coherence and cohesion, resulting in unclear or disorganized responses. These

challenges often stem from inadequate practice, reliance on native language structures, and unfamiliarity with IELTS assessment criteria (Hyland, 2019). Understanding these difficulties is essential for developing targeted strategies that can help students improve their performance in the Writing section.

This study explores the most common IELTS Writing difficulties faced by students and offers practical solutions to overcome them. By identifying specific challenges such as grammar issues, lexical resource limitations, misinterpretation of prompts, time constraints, and poor structuring of essays, this research aims to provide test-takers with actionable techniques to enhance their writing skills. The study also discusses effective learning strategies, practice methods, and feedback mechanisms that can contribute to better IELTS Writing scores.

Methods

This study is based on qualitative data gathered from various sources, including IELTS instructors, student feedback, and an analysis of common mistakes in IELTS Writing responses. The data was collected through structured interviews with IELTS teachers and surveys distributed among test-takers preparing for the exam. According to Chappell (2021), "Instructor feedback is one of the most valuable tools in identifying recurring errors and patterns in students' writing." The study also involved a review of existing literature on English writing difficulties for non-native speakers and practical strategies for overcoming them (Hamp-Lyons, 2016). Instructors were asked to identify the most frequent mistakes observed among students, while test-takers provided insights into their personal challenges and the techniques they have found useful. Sample IELTS Writing responses were analyzed to identify recurring issues in grammar, vocabulary, task achievement, coherence, and cohesion. This mixed-method approach ensured a comprehensive understanding of the common obstacles students face and the effectiveness of different solutions. Hamp-Lyons (2016) noted, "Analyzing students' written responses provides direct insight into the specific challenges they encounter in achieving higher scores."

Results

Based on the research and analysis, the following difficulties are commonly observed:

Grammar and Sentence Structure Issues – Many students struggle with subject-verb agreement, tenses, and complex sentence construction, leading to grammatical errors that lower their scores. Yan and Pastore (2021) observed that "incorrect verb tenses and poor sentence construction are among the most frequent errors in IELTS Writing responses." Sentence fragments and run-on sentences are also frequently observed.

Limited Vocabulary and Incorrect Word Usage – Students often lack a wide range of vocabulary, which affects their lexical resource score. Additionally, improper word choice, incorrect collocations, and overuse of certain phrases hinder clarity and readability. Zhang (2020) argued, "Test-takers often struggle with lexical resource due to repetitive word usage and incorrect collocations, making their essays less effective."

Inadequate Task Achievement and Misinterpretation of Prompts – Some candidates fail to fully address the question due to misinterpretation of the task prompt. Others do not provide enough supporting arguments or examples, leading to a lower band score in task achievement. Hyland (2019) pointed out, "One of the key reasons students score poorly is their inability to fully develop their ideas in response to the task prompt."

Poor Time Management – Many students spend too much time planning or writing the introduction, leaving insufficient time to complete the essay. Others do not allocate enough time for proofreading, leading to overlooked mistakes. Chappell (2021) noted, "Effective time management is crucial for IELTS Writing success, yet many students fail to divide their time efficiently between tasks."

Lack of Cohesion and Coherence – Structuring ideas logically and ensuring smooth transitions between sentences is a significant hurdle for many test-takers. Disorganized paragraphs and a lack of clear topic sentences make essays difficult to follow. According to Weigle (2002), "Cohesion and coherence remain some of the biggest challenges for non-native English writers, affecting their overall writing clarity."

Discussion

Addressing the difficulties in IELTS Writing requires a combination of targeted practice, structured learning strategies, and effective feedback. One of the most critical areas for improvement is grammar, as many students struggle with sentence construction and accuracy. Regular practice with grammar-focused resources, such as Cambridge Grammar for IELTS, can significantly enhance students' ability to use complex structures correctly. Additionally, reviewing written responses with a teacher or using online correction tools helps identify persistent errors and provides opportunities for improvement. Hamp-Lyons (2016) stated, "Frequent grammar practice and structured feedback can help students eliminate recurring mistakes and build writing accuracy." Vocabulary expansion is another essential factor in achieving a high band score. Students should engage with academic texts, newspapers, and sample IELTS essays to learn words in context. Maintaining a vocabulary journal with synonyms, antonyms, and example sentences can also be beneficial. Yan and Pastore (2021) emphasized, "A strong lexical resource is essential for success in IELTS Writing, and students must actively engage in vocabulary-building exercises." Understanding the task prompt correctly is crucial to fulfilling task achievement criteria. Many students misinterpret questions or fail to address all parts of the prompt. To combat this, test-takers should practice breaking down essay prompts into key components and outlining their responses before writing. Zhang (2020) noted, "Developing a structured approach to essay planning can significantly improve students' ability to address the prompt effectively." Time management is another common struggle. A strategic approach to time allocation can make a significant difference in performance. Candidates should aim to spend around 20 minutes on Task 1 and 40 minutes on Task 2, with a structured plan for planning, writing, and reviewing. Weigle (2002) emphasized, "Effective time allocation is a fundamental skill that test-takers must master to succeed in IELTS Writing." Additionally, students should avoid spending excessive time on introductions and instead focus on developing

their main arguments effectively.

Finally, coherence and cohesion are key aspects of a well-structured essay. Using linking words and transition phrases ensures smooth progression of ideas, making it easier for examiners to follow the argument. Hyland (2019) stated, "Students must practice logical paragraph structuring and the use of cohesive devices to enhance the readability of their essays."

Conclusion

IELTS Writing is a challenging section for many test-takers due to grammar issues, vocabulary limitations, time constraints, and difficulties in structuring responses. However, by practicing targeted exercises, expanding vocabulary, managing time effectively, and structuring responses logically, students can significantly improve their IELTS Writing scores. Continuous practice, feedback, and strategic learning are key to overcoming these challenges.

By implementing the suggested strategies, students can develop confidence in their writing abilities and achieve higher band scores in the IELTS Writing section. Preparing systematically and seeking constructive feedback will ensure continuous progress and better overall performance in the exam.

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