

Task 4 – Extended Writing

Blogging about Things to Do in Your Town/City

At a glance

Level: ISE I

Focus: Task 4 – Extended writing

Aims: To write informally about things that people can do in towns/cities and to suggest changes to leisure time activities

Objectives: Reading, speaking and making notes about leisure activities in your town/city, recognising informal language and language for making suggestions, recognising the difference in formal/informal language, writing three blog posts and reading a blog

Skill: Writing: giving informal opinions about one's home town/city

Topic: Leisure activities and 'blogging'

Language functions: Making suggestions and giving opinions

Lexis: Informal adjectives for describing activities

Materials needed: Student worksheet, access to the internet, pens and paper for learners & board

Timing: 60 minutes

Procedure

Preparation

1. Copy one student worksheet for each member of the class.
2. If you can, go to the following blog to show your class.
<http://www.girlinlondon.com/my-story/>

If you cannot do this in class, find a blog on the internet about your city/town/country and print a page of it before the class to show your students.

In class

1. Explain that today's lesson is preparation for Task 4 – Extended writing of the ISE I Reading & Writing exam. Tell the class they are going to decide what the best leisure time activities in their town/city are and which ones are not very good and how they could be changed.

2. Hand out the student worksheet and ask the students to get into groups of 4. Direct the students to Task 1, which is a table about good and not so good leisure activities in their town/city that the students must complete. Ask each group to decide which activities exist in their town/city, if they are good or not, and if they are not, how they could improve the activities. Do the first example with the class 'Going to the cinema'. Find out if there is a cinema and whether it is a good cinema or not. Then how could the cinema/the cinema programme be better? Introduce the students to some useful language to suggest changes, for example:

We could have...

We should have...

It would be good to have...

It'd be better to have...

Write these phrases on the board.

3. Give the class 15 minutes to ask and answer in their groups and complete Task 1 on the worksheet.
4. Get feedback from the class about different leisure activities in their town. Put examples on the board. For example:

The sports centre is quite good and there are lots of activities. The swimming pool's very small. It'd be better to have a large pool.

5. Introduce 'blogging'. Write it on the board. Ask the class if they know what it is. Tell them 'blogging' is writing informally on the internet about things they know. If you can, show them a blog about your city/town/country. Tell the students that when they blog, people 'post' some new information and pictures each time they find something interesting to write about. Tell the class you want them at the end of the class to write a blog and post the first entry today. The blog they are writing is about leisure activities in their town/city and how to make them better.
6. Direct the students to Task 2. Tell the class to read the blog and decide with their partner which is the best leisure activity on the blog and why. Get open-class feedback. Tell the class that Task 2 shows them an example of a model answer to the writing task.
7. Tell the class to look at the underlined words on the blog. Ask them to work in pairs and complete the table with informal expressions and suggestions.
8. Give the class 3 or 4 minutes to put the underlined words into the correct column. Get open-class feedback and write up the correct

answers, if necessary, on the board. Ask the students to add a few extra words to each list (see answer sheet for examples).

9. Tell the class that this is informal language and go through what the formal equivalent is. Elicit and write up some more ways of suggesting change to leisure activities.
10. Tell the class to use the ideas and language on the board to write three entries for a blog called 'Leisure activities in XX (my town/city)' (Task 3). They need to write between 100-130 words. Give the class 15 minutes to do this task.
11. After 15 minutes, get pairs to exchange their work to see if they have chosen the same leisure activities or different ones, what changes they have suggested and to check for any errors.

Extension activity

More advanced students can write two more entries for the blog.

Further support activity

Less able students can write only two entries for the blog. Put a further example on the board to help them.

After class

Ask a family member about another leisure activity and add one further blog entry to your work.

Student Worksheet

Task 4 – Extended Writing

Blogging about things to do in your town/ city

Task 1

In groups think about which leisure activities are possible in your city/ town/ area. Decide if they are good or not. Decide how you could improve them.

Activity	Good or Bad?	How to improve?
Cinemas		
Eating places/coffee shops/snack bars		
Sports (e.g. football/gym/swimming/sports centre)		
Picnic areas/walking		
Sights to see (e.g. buildings/art galleries)		
Other places/activities		

Task 2

1. Read the blog below and decide with your partner which leisure activity you like best in Sandgate.
2. Look at the underlined words and phrases. Put them into two lists: informal language and suggestions. What formal language would you use instead of the informal expressions?

Sara's Blog about Leisure activities in Sandgate... and how to make them better!

Posted: May 2, 2015

Welcome to my blog about Sandgate and things you can do when you've got free time.

The Sports Centre is really fabulous and you can ski, play badminton and do lots of sports. The swimming pool's a bit small though. It'd be better to have a large pool.

The cinema was built in 1930. It's got big pictures of old film stars on the walls with red curtains. It looks nice and it's not bad but it's often cold and I'd rather have more films ever week.

Posted: May 3, 2015

One of the best things to do in Sandgate is go walking down the cliffs to the beach. That's fantastic with an amazing view. Or you can go down hundreds of steps and climb up again. Why don't they have a lift!!!

Informal Language	Suggestions

Task 3

You have 15 minutes to write three entries for a Blog called 'Leisure activities in xx (my town/city)'. You should write 100-130 words and use the ideas and language covered in today's lesson.

Entry 1 (max 43 words)

Entry 2 (max 43 words)

Entry 3 (max 43 words)

Answer Key - Task 2

Informal language & formal equivalent

- you've got/ it's got ('you have' or 'it has')
- really fabulous (very good)
- lots of ('a lot of')
- a bit small ('rather small/ slightly small')
- it's not bad ('reasonable/ satisfactory')
- that's fantastic ('very good')

Other language that could be added to the list:

- it's terrible/ awful ('very bad')

Suggestions

- It'd be better to have ('it would be better to have')
- I'd rather have (I would rather have)
- Why don't they (have)...?

Other language that could be added to the list:

- They could + base verb
- They should + base verb
- I suggest + ing (I suggest putting ..)