

## 1 Comment (pp.83–87)

### 1.1 Getting started: Types of comment (p.83)

a) Decide which type of comment these tasks ask for. Underline the “signal words” in the tasks.

Type of character	Definition
Discuss <u>advantages</u> and <u>disadvantages</u> of ...	“pros and cons”
In the role of a civil rights campaigner, <u>argue against</u> ...	“support or criticism only”
Which <u>advantages</u> make the ... so fascinating for ... ?	“first-second-third”
Do you agree with ... ? <u>Why, why not?</u>	“pros and cons”
You are the headmaster of the school described in the text. <u>Justify your decision</u> to ban smoking at your school.	“first-second-third”

### 1.2 Connectors (pp.84–85)

a) Match these 18 connectors with the correct category so that you have **three** alternatives in each box.

To start with • All in all • Especially • Also • In terms of • Therefore • Admittedly • For instance • Yet • Most importantly • In short • In comparison • As opposed to • As regards • ... such as • Moreover • Firstly • As a result

Useful phrases: Connectors					
<b>Starting</b> First of all, To start with, Firstly,	people should be aware of the fact that ...	<b>Drawing conclusions</b> For this reason Therefore, As a result,	we have to consider that ...	<b>Emphasising</b> Above all, Especially Most importantly,	if we think of ...
<b>Adding</b> In addition, Moreover, Also,	many experts point out that ...	<b>Contrasting</b> In contrast to In comparison with As opposed to	A, B also sees the problem of ...	<b>Indicating a topic (change)</b> With regard to In terms of As regards	the global dimension, ...
<b>Summarising</b> To sum up, All in all, In short,	there is no doubt about it that ...	<b>Making concessions</b> However, Admittedly, Yet	it remains to be seen if ...	<b>Giving examples</b> For example, For instance, ... such as	the danger of ...

b) Invent arguments and finish the **Useful phrases** in the box below. Read the phrases and sentences out loud to reinforce your memory.

Individual answers.

c) Write down all the phrases you remember (two times eight!) on a separate sheet of paper. Then focus on those you have forgotten. –

### 1.3 Paragraph-writing and “mini-comments” (pp.85–86)

a) Connect these five sentences to form a “pros and cons” mini-comment answering the following question:

“Do you agree with the author’s claim that a stay in Britain is the ideal way to learn English? Why, why not?”

The connectors in bold print will help you to identify the five steps of the argument.

The five steps of the line of argument	Five-sentence mini-comment
referring to a statement	In the text, the author <b>holds the view</b> that it is worth going to Britain to study English.
argument in favour of the statement	<b>Undoubtedly</b> , some students make very good progress while studying in Britain, and enjoy themselves enormously.
argument against the statement	There are students, <b>however</b> , who become perfect in English without ever visiting an English-speaking country.
the writer's own opinion	<b>In my opinion</b> , this depends on how much money you have and how self-confident you are.
conclusion	<b>All in all</b> , the success of a stay abroad depends very much on the individual student.

b) In the "first-second-third" comment below, there are several reasons missing. Fill in the gaps. The comment deals with the following question: "According to the survey, books still play an important role in modern society. What might be the reasons for this?"

The findings of the survey summed up in the article are clear: Most people are of the opinion that there are many reasons why books will always play a major role in modern society.

To start with, books *provide information on any topic you can think of*.

Secondly, people *love books for their entertainment value*.

Thirdly, and most importantly, books *are cheap to buy and flexible to use*.

In conclusion, books will *never be fully replaced by other media*.

c) Consider the answers to this question: "For the author, competition is the key to global peace and wealth. Imagine you are an anti-globalisation activist and argue against this thesis." There are already four topic sentences for the four main arguments below, together with notes containing additional ideas. Use these notes to turn the topic sentences into full paragraphs with several sentences.

**Possible solution:**

According to the final statement of the author, competition between individuals and nation states is the key to success. To a large extent, he argues, Western societies depend on citizens who are ambitious and work hard to achieve their personal aims in life. Moreover, international competition leads to technological progress and economic prosperity.

In terms of global development, there is no doubt that the world economy can only remain prosperous through cooperation. The negative effects of high oil prices, strong competition for resources and global pollution are on the rise. To overcome these problems, it is necessary that countries work hard to improve their relationships and act together as partners. Likewise, the fight against global threats such as AIDS, poverty and terrorism requires close cooperation rather than competition.

As regards the individual, people find it very hard to succeed alone these days in their professional and private lives. Today, information and knowledge have increased so much that more and more people become experts in one field only. Therefore, complex tasks need the combined work of individuals cooperating in groups to solve the problems of the future. Sadly, in their private lives many people focus only on their own interests and personal aims with no regard for the people around them. Oftentimes, this is a cause for unhappiness and restlessness.

To sum up, I firmly oppose competition and regard cooperation as the main source of self-esteem and satisfaction in life. Clearly, cooperation does not endanger our independence and individuality but strengthens it. It helps us develop stronger relationships and find effective solutions to the global challenges of the future. I strongly believe that by being flexible, supportive and willing to compromise we will have more success in both our private lives and careers.

**1.4 Writing a model comment (p.87)**

a) Choose a topic and a model exam typical for your state from the internet. Find the comment question: What type of comment does it ask for? Decide on a line of argument, write topic sentences and take further notes. Read the useful **connecting phrases** in the box below and highlight those you want to use in your comment. Then turn your notes into a sequence of paragraphs. The solutions of the model exam will give you feedback on the work you have done. Ask a classmate or your teacher to correct the language. If you have written your comment on a computer, correct your mistakes and use the feedback and advice to perfect your comment into a "model" version. Share model texts with other students. –