

IELTS Writing Task One prepositions and determiners pairwork

Student A

Choose one of the sections below and read examples from it with the same word in **bold** missing until your partner guesses the missing word. They can only guess once per hint. If you run out of examples before they guess correctly, make up other example sentences with the same missing word, including non-IELTS ones if you can't think of more IELTS examples. When they have guessed correctly, read out the ones that they got wrong so they can hear the correct answers, then guess your partner's missing word in the same way. Take turns doing the same with different sections until your teacher stops you. If you haven't used all the examples in a section, you can come back to it later if you like.

A

The map gives **a** bird's eye view of...

Only **a** tiny minority of people are projected to regain their previous level of savings.

A larger percentage had a mix of good and bad experiences.

There is **a** noticeable increase in instability over time.

The peak will be **a** little under 2000 litres per second.

There is **a** comparatively small amount of non-recyclable rubbish.

The desire to move abroad is just **a** niche motivation.

At

The diagram **at** the top represents the process by which...

It then remained **at** the same level for the next two decades.

Humidity climbed **at** the same rate.

It is then expected to continue increasing, but not **at** the same rate.

The figures in the two places peaked **at** more or less the same time.

Looking **at** the second graph, it can be seen that...

By

The flowchart illustrates the process **by** which milk is made into cheese.

Inflation will have already reached a peak and started to decline **by** then.

All three figures will have overtaken their previous peaks **by** the end of this century. _

From

From the information given in the table, we can see that...

The second column **from** the right shows figures in the near future.

The figures related to the year 2030 are in the third row **from** the top.

The gift shop is across **from** the main entrance.

In

I will explain those two things **in** that order

I will look at those two diagrams **in** turn in the paragraphs below.

... and summarise the other infrastructure **in** the paragraph after that.

In the first half of the 1970s,...

In the near future that will change to around a quarter of the population.

In complete contrast to the data on Europe, in North America...

Off

The rate of growth was initially slow, but took **off** from the early 1990s.
The growth is expected to slow down and then level **off**.

Than

At that point, the figure for men will be approximately 55% higher **than** that for women.
It will then rebound to slightly higher **than** its first peak.
It then more **than** tripled over the next two weeks.

The

The line graph given includes statistics on the level of...
The pie chart on **the** left shows three categories of...
The other table shows...
The vertical axis shows...
The y axis represents...
Over **the** whole period given,...
Throughout **the** period shown,...
For **the** most part...
The most noticeable feature is...
The most obvious difference is...
The biggest change is...

To

It sank **to** a low point but quickly rebounded.
It then peaked at just under half. **To** be precise, the new figure was 47.5%.
The future trend is similar **to** the past one in that...
The second line is close **to** the aforementioned line at that point.
The hotel is next **to** the golf course.
The beach is adjacent **to** the ferry port.
The outlet mall is **to** the East, about two kilometres from the outskirts of the town.

With

Starting **with** the top graph,...
In common **with** spending in Eastern Europe, in Central Europe...
It then caught up **with** the previous leader, overtaking it by the end of the decade.
This contrasts **with** the future projections, which mostly show growth.

Switch worksheets and do the same, making sure that you start with the most difficult examples this time (because they have already seen those examples).

*Ask about any of your phrases or your partner's phrases which you are not sure of the meaning of, think could have another word in the place in **bold**, etc.*

Student B

Choose one of the sections below and read examples from it with the same word in **bold** missing until your partner guesses the missing word. They can only guess once per hint. If you run out of examples before they guess correctly, make up other example sentences with the same missing word, including non-IELTS ones if you can't think of more IELTS examples. When they have guessed correctly, read out the ones that they got wrong so they can hear the correct answers, then guess your partner's missing word in the same way. Take turns doing the same with different sections until your teacher stops you. If you haven't used all the examples in a section, you can come back to it later if you like.

A

Job satisfaction dropped but later staged **a** recovery.
Costs are predicted to reach **a** peak two years later.
The average temperature decreased **a** little.
Almost **a** third of the people surveyed said that...
The figure was **a** tiny bit higher for women at that time.
The UK shows **a** rather different pattern, for example...
A clear similarity between those two figures is...

As

The second peak was not as high **as** the first one.
This recovery is predicted to be twice **as** fast as the earlier fall.
As for the upward movements, they will occur...

Back

It reached a peak and then fell **back**.
It had risen to almost a new high, but then slipped **back**.
The typical salary is forecast to experience a dip and then bounce **back**.
The yen then fell **back** against the dollar.
The income of the middle class will subsequently slip **back** against that of the top bracket.

For

Before that it had fallen to a new low **for** a period of several years.
As **for** the trend in developing countries, the table shows that...

In

In total, the three groups combined include...
The shopping centre is **in** the Northeast, near to the city centre.
Approximately one **in** three people have experienced verbal abuse.
They have two things **in** common, namely...
In contrast to the situation in Northern Europe,...

Of

The system consists **of** three parts.
... and after that write a description **of** the downward movements.
It then fell back near the end **of** the 1990s.
The second location is in the vicinity **of** the station.

On

The table **on** the right-hand side lists the percentage of...

The symbols **on** the map represent...

I will look at the past and then move **on** to the future.

I will summarise the data related to European countries, then focus **on** nations in Asia.

Moving **on** to the pie chart,...

Out

What stands **out** is...

It will have flattened **out** by 2075.

The drop will slow down and then the rate will bottom **out** at a level of 3%.

The

The first thing that you notice looking at the graph is...

I will describe **the** pie chart and then turn my attention to the table.

I will explain the similarities between the two locations, before turning to **the** differences.

I will write a summary of the facilities for tourists in **the** next paragraph and...

The surrounding area mainly consists of parkland, but...

The vast majority of CO2 comes from fossil fuels.

It then stayed **the** same for a short period, before...

The most striking similarity between the two lines is...

The final figure given (for 1989) is exactly **the** same.

To

I will explain the similarities between the two locations, before turning **to** the differences.

I will summarise the data related **to** Northern European countries, then...

According **to** the pie chart,...

The flow chart shows how **to** make cement out of...

Sales are expected **to** pick up by...

Turning our attention **to** the table at the bottom,...

Up

The process is made **up** of twelve steps.

It then shot **up**, reaching a peak of...

It only crept **up** after that, but rose to 100,000 by the end of the period given.

Supply then picked **up**, overtaking demand within six months.

It then went **up** and down, with larger and larger fluctuations over time.

It is predicted that it will catch **up** with the other two in the middle of the next century.

Switch worksheets and do the same, making sure that you start with the most difficult examples this time (because they have already seen those examples).

*Ask about any of your phrases or your partner's phrases which you are not sure of the meaning of, think could have another word in the place in **bold**, etc.*

Uses of prepositions and determiners presentation

Try to find prepositions and determiners above which have these meanings/ these uses. Some things above have more than one of these meanings/ uses, and some have none.

_____	+ a deadline/ a time limit
_____	+ a larger space or length of time (than spaces and times with “at”)
_____	+ an exact position or time
_____	+ how/ in what way
_____	+ the final position
_____	= eventually/ in the end
_____	= one/ we don’t care or know which one
_____	= rising
_____	= the only one/ we know which one
_____	= the opposite of “to”
_____	= to or towards its original position

Check as a class or below to fold.

-----cover, fold or cut-----

Suggested answers

<u>by</u>	+ a deadline/ a time limit
<u>in</u>	+ a larger space or length of time (than spaces and times with “at”)
<u>at</u>	+ an exact position or time
<u>by</u>	+ how/ in what way
<u>to</u>	+ the final position
<u>out/ off</u>	= eventually/ in the end
<u>a/ an</u>	= one/ we don’t care or know which one
<u>up</u>	= rising
<u>the</u>	= the only one/ we know which one
<u>from</u>	= the opposite of “to”
<u>back</u>	= to or towards its original position

Brainstorming stage

First with no help, write at least two suitable sentences in each section below.

Rephrasing the question/ A very brief description of the charts etc given

(Optional) information on the components of what is given/ summary sentence/ description of what you notice straightaway

Sentence describing the structure/ organisation/ plan

Starting the first body paragraph

Starting any body paragraph

Starting the second (or third) body paragraph

(Suitable) verb forms for describing future information

Giving vague data and times

Proportions (in pie charts, etc)

Giving exact data and times

Comparing and contrasting

Describing positions

Describing times

Describing trends/ changes over time (line graphs, etc)

Look above for examples, brainstorm more, then compare as a class or with lists.

Play a similar guessing prepositions and determiners game, but this time say the heading of one of the finished brainstorming sections above and read all the phrases with that function with different words missing for your partner to complete.