Coming Up Next!

IELTS Academic Task 1

An Overview of the Basics.

Academic Task 1

The Basics

It requires you to write a report summarizing information presented in a visual format, such as a graph, chart, diagram, or map.

01

You should write at least 150 words in 4 paragraphs in a formal style: Intro, General Overview, and 2 Specific Comparison Paragraphs.
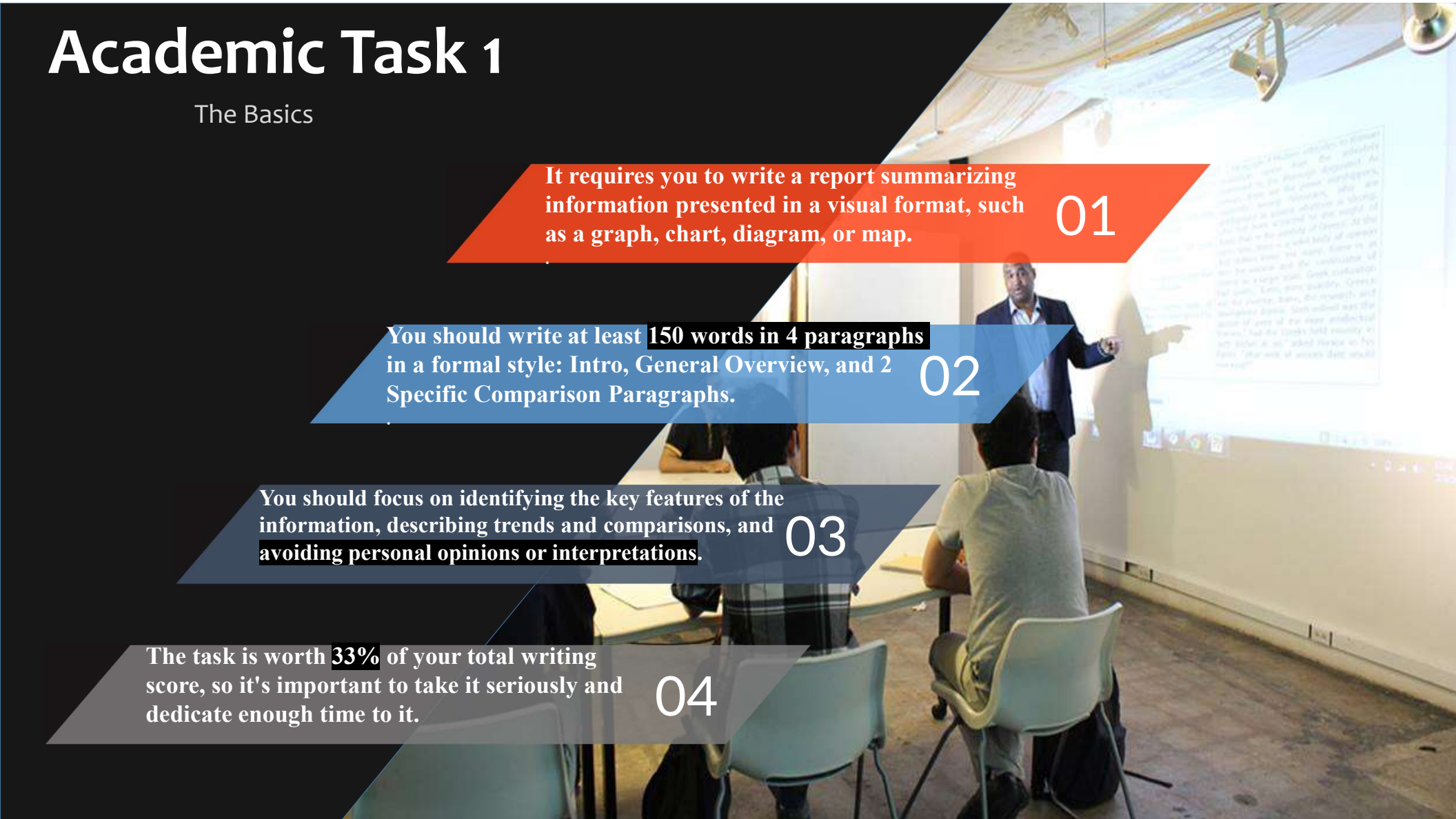
02

You should focus on identifying the key features of the information, describing trends and comparisons, and avoiding personal opinions or interpretations.

03

The task is worth 33% of your total writing score, so it's important to take it seriously and dedicate enough time to it.

04

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Overall Rubric Review.

Specifically Attacking the Rubric uplifts scoring capacity.

Band Scores	Task Achievement (25%)	Coherence & Cohesion (25%)	Lexical Resource (25%)	Grammatical Range/Accuracy (25%)
Band 9	All the requirements of the task are fully and appropriately satisfied. There may be extremely rare lapses in content.	The message can be followed effortlessly. Cohesion is used in such a way that it very rarely attracts attention. Any lapses in coherence or cohesion are minimal. Paragraphing is skillfully managed.	Full flexibility and precise use are evident within the scope of the task. A wide range of vocabulary is used accurately and appropriately with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features. Minor errors in spelling and word formation are extremely rare and have minimal impact on communication.	A wide range of structures within the scope of the task is used with full flexibility and control. Punctuation and grammar are used appropriately throughout. Minor errors are extremely rare and
Band 8	The response covers all the requirements of the task appropriately, relevantly, and sufficiently. (Academic) Key features are skillfully selected and clearly presented, highlighted, and illustrated.	The message can be followed with ease. Information and ideas are logically sequenced, and cohesion is well managed. Occasional lapses in coherence or cohesion may occur. Paragraphing is used sufficiently and appropriately	A wide resource is fluently and flexibly used to convey precise meanings within the scope of the task. There is skillful use of uncommon and/or idiomatic items when appropriate, despite occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation. Occasional errors in spelling and/or word formation may occur, but have minimal impact on communication.	A wide range of structures within the scope of the task is flexibly and accurately used. The majority of sentences are error-free, and punctuation is well-managed. Occasional, non-systematic errors and inappropriacies occur but have minimal impact on communication.
Band 7	The response covers the requirements of the task. The content is relevant and accurate – there may be a few omissions or lapses. The format is appropriate. (Academic) Key features that are selected are covered and clearly highlighted but could be more fully or more appropriately illustrated or extended. (Academic) It presents a clear overview; the data are appropriately executed.	Information and ideas are logically organized, and there is a clear progression throughout the response. A few lapses may occur. A range of cohesive devices including reference and substitution, is used flexibly but with some inaccuracy	The resource is sufficient to allow some flexibility and precision. There is some ability to use less common and/or idiomatic items. An awareness of style and collocation is evident, though inappropriacies occur. There are only a few errors in spelling and/or word formation, and they do not detract from overall clarity.	A variety of complex structures is used with some flexibility and accuracy. Grammar and punctuation are generally well controlled, and error-free sentences are frequent. A few errors in grammar may persist, but these do not impede communication.
Band 6	The response focuses on the requirements of the task and an appropriate format is used. (Academic) Key features which are selected are covered and adequately highlighted. A relevant overview is attempted. Information is appropriately selected and supported using figures/data. Some irrelevant, inappropriate or inaccurate information may occur in areas of detail or when illustrating or extending the main points. Some details may be missing (or excessive) and further extension or illustration may be needed.	Information and ideas are generally arranged coherently and there is a clear overall progression. Cohesive devices are used to some good effect but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical due to misuse, overuse or omission. The use of reference and substitution may lack flexibility or clarity	The resource is generally adequate and appropriate for the task. The meaning is generally clear in spite of a rather restricted range or a lack of precision in word choice. If the writer is a risk-taker, there will be a wider range of vocabulary used but higher degrees of inaccuracy or inappropriacy. There are some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but these do not impede communication.	A mix of simple and complex sentence forms is used but flexibility is limited. Examples of more complex structures are not marked by the same level of accuracy as in simple structures. Errors in grammar and punctuation occur, but rarely impede communication

IELTS Examiner Rubric Key Assessment Criteria

Task Achievement	Cohesion and Coherence	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
The TA criterion assesses the ability to summarize the information provided in the diagram by: ▪ selecting key features of the information. ▪ providing sufficient detail to illustrate these features. ▪ reporting the information, figures and trends accurately. ▪ comparing or contrasting the information by adequately highlighting the identifiable trends, principal changes or differences in the data and other inputs (rather than mechanical description reporting detail). ▪ presenting the response in an appropriate format.	The CC criterion assesses: ▪ the coherence of the response via the logical organization of information and/or ideas, or the logical progression of the argument. ▪ the appropriate use of paragraphing for topic organization and presentation. ▪ the logical sequencing of ideas and/or information within and across paragraphs. ▪ the flexible use of reference and substitution (e.g. definite articles, pronouns). ▪ the appropriate use of discourse markers to clearly mark the stages in a response, e.g. [First of all | In conclusion], and to signal the relationship between ideas and/or information, e.g. [as a result | similarly].	The LR criterion assesses: ▪ the range of general words used (e.g. the use of synonyms to avoid repetition). ▪ the adequacy and appropriacy of the vocabulary (e.g. topic-specific items, indicators of writer's attitude). ▪ the precision of word choice and expression. ▪ the control and use of collocations, idiomatic expressions and sophisticated phrasing. ▪ the density and communicative effect of errors in spelling. ▪ the density and communicative effect of errors in word formation.	The GRA criterion assesses: ▪ the range and appropriacy of structures used in a given response (e.g. simple, compound and complex sentences). ▪ the accuracy of simple, compound and complex sentences. ▪ the density and communicative effect of grammatical errors. ▪ the accurate and appropriate use of punctuation.

Aligning Your Writing With the Task 1 Rubric

Task Achievement	Cohesion and Coherence	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
Select Key Features: Identify the main features and trends in the provided information. **Provide Sufficient Detail:** Include enough specific details to support your summary. **Report Information Accurately:** Double-check the accuracy of the information, figures, and trends presented. **Compare or Contrast Information:** Go beyond mere description by highlighting identifiable trends, changes, or differences in the data. **Present in an Appropriate Format:** Ensure your response is well-organized and follows a logical structure.	**Logical Organization:** Organize your ideas logically, ensuring a clear flow of information. **Appropriate Paragraphing:** Use paragraphs effectively for topic organization and presentation. **Logical Sequencing:** Ensure a logical sequence of ideas both within and across paragraphs. **Flexible Use of Reference and Substitution:** Use definite articles, pronouns, and other references flexibly and appropriately. **Use of Discourse Markers:** Employ discourse markers to mark stages in your response and signal relationships between ideas.	**Range of General Words:** Use a variety of words, including synonyms to avoid repetition. **Adequacy and Appropriacy of Vocabulary:** Choose words that are suitable for the topic and convey your attitude appropriately. **Precision of Word Choice:** Be precise in your word choice and expression. **Control and Use of Collocations:** Incorporate collocations, idiomatic expressions, and sophisticated phrasing. **Spelling and Word Formation:** Minimize errors in spelling and word formation.	**Range and Appropriacy of Structures:** Use a variety of sentence structures, including simple, compound, and complex sentences. **Accuracy of Sentences:** Ensure the accuracy of simple, compound, and complex sentences. **Density and Communicative Effect of Grammatical Errors:** Minimize grammatical errors and their impact on communication. **Use of Punctuation:** Employ punctuation accurately and appropriately.
Checking: Review your response to ensure you've covered all key features. Verify that your details accurately reflect the information in the diagram. Check if you've effectively compared or contrasted the information. Confirm that your response follows a clear and appropriate format.	**Checking:** Read through your response to evaluate the logical flow and organization. Ensure each paragraph has a clear topic, and ideas progress logically. Check for the use of appropriate reference and substitution. Confirm the presence of effective discourse markers.	Checking: Review your response for word variety and appropriate synonyms. Check if your vocabulary is suitable for the topic and context. Ensure precision in word choice and expression. Verify the correct use of collocations and idiomatic expressions. Minimize errors in spelling and word formation.	Checking: Confirm the presence of a variety of sentence structures. Check for sentence accuracy and grammatical correctness. Minimize grammatical errors that may affect communication. Verify the accurate use of punctuation.

How it Reads When Failing in One or More Category

Task Achievement	Cohesion and Coherence	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy

❑ **Failure to Select Key Features:**
  ❑ Ignoring or overlooking significant trends or features in the data.
❑ **Insufficient Detail:**
  ❑ Providing a vague or incomplete description without specific details.
❑ **Inaccurate Reporting:**
  ❑ Presenting information, figures, or trends incorrectly.
❑ **Mechanical Description without Analysis:**
  ❑ Merely describing the data without analyzing trends or changes.
❑ **Inappropriate Format:**
  ❑ Failing to structure the response in a logical or coherent manner.
	❑ **Illogical Organization:**
	  ❑ Lack of a clear structure, resulting in a disjointed or confusing response.
	❑ **Poor Paragraphing:**
	  ❑ Absence of well-organized paragraphs or failure to transition smoothly between them.
	❑ **Illogical Sequencing:**
	  ❑ Ideas presented in a manner that does not follow a logical sequence.
	❑ **Inconsistent Use of Reference:**
	  ❑ Overuse or underuse of references, leading to confusion.
	❑ **Lack of Discourse Markers:**
	  ❑ Failing to use markers to signal stages or relationships between ideas.
		❑ **Limited Range of General Words:**
		  ❑ Overusing certain words or failing to incorporate synonyms.
		❑ **Inappropriate Vocabulary:**
		  ❑ Using words that are not suitable for the topic or that convey an incorrect attitude.
		❑ **Lack of Precision:**
		  ❑ Choosing imprecise or unclear words that do not convey the intended meaning.
		❑ **Inappropriate Collocations:**
		  ❑ Misusing or not using collocations appropriately.
		❑ **High Density of Spelling and Word Formation Errors:**
		  ❑ Multiple errors in spelling and word formation affecting communicative clarity.
			❑ **Limited Sentence Structures:**
			  ❑ Over-reliance on simple sentence structures without variation.
			❑ **Inaccurate Sentences:**
			  ❑ Frequent grammatical errors that hinder comprehension.
			❑ **High Density of Grammatical Errors:**
			  ❑ Numerous errors in grammar throughout the response.
			❑ **Incorrect Punctuation:**
			  ❑ Misuse or absence of punctuation that affects the clarity of the writing.

Addressing All Parts of Task Achievement

Key Features Identification:

Writers must identify and highlight the crucial features and trends presented in the provided information or diagram.

Example: In a line graph showing temperature changes over a month, key features might include peaks, troughs, or significant fluctuations.

Particular Emphasis:

Clear Information:
Clear communication ensures that the reader easily understands the main points of the response.
Example: Use straightforward language to describe trends without unnecessary complexity.

Common Pitfalls:

Ignoring Key Features:
Pitfall: Focusing on minor details and neglecting significant trends.
Avoidance: Prioritize features that have the most substantial impact on the overall message.

Sufficient Detail:

It's vital to provide enough specific details to support and illustrate the selected key features.

Example: Rather than stating "temperature increased," provide specific data points like "temperature rose by 5 degrees Celsius."

Particular Emphasis:

Detailed Information:
Providing specific details enriches the response and enhances the overall understanding.
Example: Instead of stating a general trend, offer detailed data points or examples that support the observation.

Common Pitfalls:

Vague or Incomplete Detail:
Pitfall: Providing generic information without specific details.
Avoidance: Incorporate precise data points and examples to enhance the depth of the response.

Accurate Reporting:

Writers should accurately report the information, figures, and trends presented in the diagram.

Example: If a bar chart indicates sales figures, the writer should report the exact values without inaccuracies.

Particular Emphasis:

Accurate Information:
Accuracy is crucial to maintain the credibility of the response.
Example: If a chart displays percentages, ensure that the reported percentages align precisely with the data.

Common Pitfalls:

Inaccurate Reporting:
Pitfall: Presenting figures or trends incorrectly. Avoidance: Double-check the data in the diagram and ensure accuracy in reporting.

Comparison or Contrast:

The writer should go beyond mechanical description and instead compare or contrast identifiable trends or changes.

Example: Instead of merely stating the data, compare sales figures between two different years to highlight changes.

Common Pitfalls

Mechanical Description:
Pitfall: Describing the data without analyzing or interpreting trends. Avoidance: Provide insightful commentary on the significance of the presented information.

Appropriate Format:

The response should be presented in a format that is suitable for the task.

Example: In a process diagram, the steps should be presented in a logical sequence, following the format expected for that type of visual.

Common Pitfalls

Disorganized Presentation:
Pitfall: Lack of a clear structure or format.
Avoidance: Plan the response carefully, ensuring a logical and organized presentation of information.

Addressing All Parts of Coherence and Cohesion

Organize Information Logically:

Plan Your Response:
Writers should take the time to plan their responses before writing to ensure a logical and organized flow of information.

Example: In a process diagram, plan the sequence of steps to present them in a clear and chronological order.

Group Related Information Together in Paragraphs:
Information should be grouped logically into paragraphs, each containing a distinct topic or idea.

Example: If writing about different aspects of a chart (e.g., revenue and expenses), dedicate separate paragraphs to each.

Common Pitfalls:

Disorganized Information:
Pitfall: Lack of planning leading to a disorganized response.
Avoidance: Create an outline before writing to structure your thoughts logically.

Use Linking Words:

Include a Variety of Cohesive Devices:
Utilize a diverse range of cohesive devices, such as conjunctions, transition words, and linking phrases.

Example: Use words like "however," "moreover," or "in contrast" to connect ideas and show relationships.

Guiding the Reader:
Linking words guide the reader through the response, helping them follow the logical progression of ideas.

Example: Transition phrases like "firstly," "subsequently," and "finally" help signal the sequence of steps or points.

Common Pitfalls:

Limited Use of Linking Words:
Pitfall: Overlooking the importance of cohesive devices.
Avoidance: Intentionally incorporate a variety of linking words to enhance the flow of ideas.

Avoid Repetition:

Vary Vocabulary and Sentence Structures:
Maintain coherence by varying both vocabulary and sentence structures.

Example: Instead of repeatedly using "increase," consider synonyms like "rise," "grow," or "ascend."

Synonyms and Different Sentence Starters:
Using synonyms and starting sentences differently contributes to variety and prevents monotony.

Example: Instead of consistently beginning sentences with subjects, employ varied sentence starters like gerunds or participial phrases.

Common Pitfalls:

Repetitive Vocabulary:
Pitfall: Overusing certain words, resulting in monotony.
Avoidance: Actively seek synonyms and employ varied sentence structures to maintain engagement.

Addressing All Parts of Lexical Resource

Vary Vocabulary:

Importance: A varied vocabulary adds richness to the response and avoids monotony.

Example: Instead of using "important" repeatedly, consider alternatives like "significant" or "crucial."

Use Academic Language:

Importance: Academic language demonstrates a command of formal, appropriate language.

Example: For a task on economic trends, use terms like "economic indicators" or "fiscal fluctuations."

Be Precise:

Importance: Precision ensures the conveyed meaning aligns with the intended message.

Example: Instead of a vague term like "a lot," specify the quantity, e.g., "a substantial increase."

Common Pitfalls

Lack of Specifics:

Pitfall: Providing vague descriptions without specific details.
Avoidance: Support your descriptions with precise data, numbers, and percentages.

Addressing All Parts of Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Sentence Structure:

Aim for a Mix of Structures:
Importance: Using various sentence structures showcases a command of language.
Example: Combine simple sentences with complex ones, e.g., "Although sales increased, the overall growth was slower than anticipated."

Use a Variety of Sentence Types:
Importance: Demonstrating grammatical range adds complexity and depth to writing.
Example: Include declarative, interrogative, and conditional sentences in your response.

Emphasis:

Varied Sentence Structures: A mix of sentence structures adds sophistication to the writing, showcasing a command of language.

Example: Combining short, punchy sentences with longer, more complex ones creates a dynamic response.

Common Pitfalls:

Monotonous Sentence Structure: *Pitfall:* Using the same sentence structure throughout the response.
Avoidance: Intentionally vary sentence structures, incorporating both simple and complex sentences.

Correct Grammar and Punctuation:

Pay Attention to Grammar and Punctuation:
Importance: Proper grammar and punctuation enhance the clarity of the response.
Example: Ensure subject-verb agreement, proper use of commas, and appropriate use of semicolons for clarity.

Proofread for Common Errors:
Importance: Proofreading helps identify and correct errors before submission.
Example: Check for common errors such as subject-verb agreement, verb tense consistency, and punctuation mistakes.

Emphasis:

Correct Grammar and Punctuation: Proper grammar and punctuation contribute to the clarity and professionalism of the writing.

Example: Accurate punctuation, such as using commas appropriately, ensures the reader understands the intended meaning.

Common Pitfalls:

Grammar and Punctuation Errors: *Pitfall:* Overlooking common errors that can impact clarity.
Avoidance: Pay careful attention to grammar rules and punctuation during the proofreading process.

Range of Tenses:

Demonstrate Command of Different Tenses:
Importance: Using different tenses accurately reflects a strong command of the English language.
Example: If describing a past event, use past simple, past continuous, and past perfect tenses appropriately.

Ensure Consistency in Tense Usage:
Importance: Consistency in tense usage maintains coherence throughout the response.
Example: If you start a paragraph in the past tense, maintain the same tense throughout that paragraph.

Emphasis:

Consistent and Appropriate Tense Usage: Demonstrating a range of tenses used consistently reflects a nuanced understanding of language.

Example: Shifting from past to present tense should be intentional and contextually justified.

Common Pitfalls:

Inconsistent Tense Usage: *Pitfall:* Switching between tenses inconsistently.
Avoidance: Be mindful of the chosen tense and maintain consistency throughout the response.

Coming Up Next!

IELTS Academic Task 1

Conducting a Question Analysis & Short Outline

Question Analysis - Outlining

Academic Task 1

Type of Visual Data

- ❏ Identify the type of visual data presented (e.g., bar chart, line graph, pie chart, table, diagram).
- ❏ Understand the characteristics and conventions associated with that type of data.

- ❏ Identify the main trends, features, or significant points in the visual data.
- ❏ Consider the highs and lows, patterns, and any notable changes.

Main Trends Features

Time Frame Units, Parts

- ❏ Determine if there is a specific time frame parts or units of measurement associated with the data.
- ❏ Note any relevant details that influence how you interpret and describe the

- ❏ Determine if the task involves comparing or contrasting different elements.
- ❏ Note which aspects of the data should be compared and how they relate to each other.

Comparison and Contrast