**2 Writing Mistakes to Avoid and Get Lower Scores**

1. **Mistake #1: Not understanding the meaning of the scoring rubric criteria.**
2. Task Response = Content Development-Precision-Expansion
3. Cohesion and Coherence = Readability
   1. Readability (Readability is the ease with which a reader can understand a written text.
   2. In natural language, the readability of text depends on its content and its presentation).
   3. Improve Readability by using the active voice, shortening sentences (writing concisely), eliminating weak verbs, and using subject-specific vocabulary.
   4. If it’s high, that means the writing flows and is easy to absorb. If it’s low, that means a reader may find it hard to grasp its message and key points.
   5. When sentences are wordy and not concise, it reduces readability.
   6. When sentences are long-winded and full of unnecessary functional language.
   7. Writing must have clarity: A piece of writing is clear when your ideas are presented in a precise and concise manner so they can be understood easily.

<https://www.uwa.edu.au/students/-/media/Project/UWA/UWA/Students/Docs/STUDYSmarter/GE12-Academic-Writing-Style_Clarity.pdf>

1. Lexical Resource – Vocabulary
   1. Lexical resource is your ability to use a wide range of vocabulary correctly (without errors) and appropriately (in the proper context) in your written responses.
   2. Subject/Topic Specific Vocabulary
   3. Using Synonyms
   4. Paraphrasing
   5. Replacing Basic Level Words
   6. No word Repetition
   7. Accurate spelling and collocations
   8. Proper word choice
   9. Do not use obviously memorized phrases
2. Grammar – Grammatical Range and Structures Used
   1. Compound, complex, compound-complex, collocations, conditional sentences
   2. Using correct and appropriate verb tenses
   3. Start sentences with prepositional phrases
   4. Use relative pronouns properly
   5. Appropriate passive voice usage
   6. Accurate Grammar: avoid pronoun disagreement, wrong endings, subject-verb agreement mistakes, sentence fragments, missing prepositions and missing commas. https://englishproficiency.com/toefl/grammar/test-rules/

**Sentence transformation: Improves Grammar**

1. **The cost of relocating a company from the city to a regional location is expensive. You have to build new facilities. (Change using a subordinating.)**

*Answer: The cost of relocating a company from the city to a regional location is expensive because you have to build new facilities.*

**2. It is highly advantageous to stay in the same job for life. (Change using a prepositional phrase.)**

*Answer: Staying in the same job for life, is highly advantageous.*

**3. A dramatic change in technology in over the last ten years has led to a decline in family communication. (Change using a different part of speech.)**

*Answer: Technology has changed dramatically over the last ten years, leading to a decline in family communication.*

**4. Humans should adapt to technology. Humans are inherently lazy. (Change using a relative pronoun.)**

*Answer: Humans, who are inherently lazy, should adapt to technology.*

**5. In general, American businesses will spend much more on relocating companies than China over the next 20 years. (Change using a different part of speech).**

*Answer: In general, much more will be spent on relocating companies by American businesses than in China over the next 20 years.*

**6. Copyright laws reward creativity. Copyright laws protect the creator’s works of art. (Change using a subordinating conjunction).**

*Answer: Copyright laws reward creativity as well as protect the creator’s works of art.*

**7. The aging population in America has grown incrementally over the last 10 years. (Change using different part of speech).**

*Answer: There has been incremental growth in the aging population in America over the last 10 years.*

**8. The price of educating children has risen dramatically since 2010. (Change using prepositional phrase).**

*Answer: Since 2008, the price of education for children has risen dramatically.*

**9. Family members like communicating through Skype. Family members can now communicate with each other anywhere in the world for free.**

*Answer: Family members who like communicating through Skype, can now communicate with each other anywhere in the world for free.*

1. **Mistake 2: Not Answering the Question or Going Off Topic**
   1. Poor Question Analysis: This is the number one reason a student fails to answer the question
   2. Not Outlining: When a student cannot properly outline, they end up going off-topic and not answering the essay question.
   3. Not having clear progression in agreement with a paragraph controlling idea
   4. Not having clear progression and staying on topic for the entire essay.
   5. Not supporting the given thesis statement and controlling ideas
2. Mistake 3: Not Paraphrasing the Question
   1. You must properly paraphrase the essay question in the introduction so that the reader understands what the essay is supposed to answer.
   2. Paraphrasing the question shows that you have lexical range.