Objective Writing for Cambridge English: First
100 tips for Spanish speakers
informed by the Cambridge Learner Corpus

Answer key

1
situation
advertisement
occasion
choice
business
opportunity
volleyball
responsibility
government
bicycle

2
1 or 2 because 3 when 4 whether 5 but

3
Relative clause:
The film is set in the USA, where a serial killer called Buffalo Bill has already killed five women. Lecter agrees, but he requests some privileges as a reward, which allows him to escape.

Passive form:
The film is set in the USA / an agent called Clarice Starling is sent / Buffalo Bill is eventually captured.

Present perfect tense:
a serial killer called Buffalo Bill has already killed five women / an even more terrible man has broken free.

4
The plot is quite simple and easy to follow, and the terrifying scenes are wonderful...
However, the filming is worse than expected, mainly because not the best places of Massachusetts and Ohio were chosen as locations.
I found it very exciting because not only the ending but the whole film is thrilling.
... for the lead actors.

(*) Note that an alternative word to filming would be cinematography.

1 soundtrack 2 cast 3 role 4 script 5 classic

5
This remarkable film has much to recommend it, including a witty and well-written script, a memorable soundtrack, and a terrific cast led by Sean Penn and Frances McDormand. In short, this is a modern-day classic - don't miss it!

6


7
1 fortunately 2 suddenly / quickly 3 heavily 4 deeply / truly 5 Strangely 6 proudly / really / truly 7 wonderfully 8 really / deeply / horribly

8
1 After the beautiful ten days I spent on the island I returned to Santiago.
2 In fact, it was easier for me to search for the information on the internet.
3 (Correct)
4 I am writing to you because I am interested in the advertisement I saw on a college noticeboard.
5 For / During the first couple of hours everything was very exciting.
6 I hope you are having fun on your holidays?
7 It might be interesting for you to hear about some things that happened during / at this time.
8 (Correct)
9 My job was to leave leaflets in shops and restaurants.
10 Referring to sports, I would like to choose swimming and basketball.
Dear Kim,
Sorry for not having written you in the last month. You know that I'm a little bit lazy, but the main reason for not writing to you has been the accumulation of exams during this month.

Dear Robert,
How are you? I suppose you're alright because you have just started your holiday, haven't you? Thanks very much for your last letter – it was very funny. To tell the truth I don't have any good answer to the question you wrote in your letter.

In fact, we don't talk very much about rules here. At school, there are some rules but in my opinion they aren't very strict.

Dear Mr Thomas,
I am a young and enthusiastic guy who is very interested in the job you offer in the weekly magazine of the "Mirror". I am in the third year of a tourism course and also attend an English school. I believe the job really suits me because I have got all the requirements you ask for. Apart from English I can speak Spanish and French fluently and I understand quite good Italian.

A

Letter B is the most formal in style.

No answer necessary.

1 F 2 I 3 I 4 I 5 F

1 I would like to ask you for my £20 back.
2 It was great to hear from you.
3 I will be waiting for your answer.
4 When we arrived in Spain, we had to explain to our parents about our adventure.
5 I have to thank you for the letter you sent me.
6 I'd like to find a job in London to pay for my stay there.
7 People can keep fit and healthy if they really want to.
8 What do we mean when we talk about being 'rich and famous'?

All collocate except '8 line' and '10 way'.

No answer necessary.

✓ = 1 attractive, 2 delightful, 4 gorgeous, 5 lovely, 6 magnificent, 8 splendid, 9 stunning
X = 3 funny, 7 plain, 10 ugly
Finally I woke up and to my surprise it was all a dream.

We didn’t finish the race because Mireia fell off her bike. (Correct)

1 Portuguese  2 Brazilian  3 French  4 Swedish  5 Japanese

1 I would also be pleased if you could tell me about the other activities. 2 If you get lost somebody can find you. (Correct) 3 It would be great if you added this hotel in your next edition. 4 This will not end unless the city traffic department starts to control the number of vehicles. (Correct) 5 If I were you, I’d choose the more expensive one. 6 I will not remain silent about the matter unless you give me my money back.

No answer necessary.

Dear Sir

I recently stayed at your hotel for two nights and had a very unsatisfactory time there. My room was kind of small and it had no windows at all. Well, this is completely unacceptable! Surely you would agree that it is essential to have natural light, even in a hotel room.

Furthermore, the hotel breakfast was really disgusting. The coffee wasn’t warm enough to drink and it tasted awful. On top of that, there was no fresh fruit and the bread rolls were so old they were like bricks.

On paying the final bill, I found I had been charged more than the quoted rate for the room. However, when I queried this, your staff refused to alter the bill. Your hotel messed up big time and I am therefore writing to you to request a partial refund.

I look forward to hearing from you without delay.

Love

Archibald Grimethorpe

Check individual answers for rewritten letter.
2 Where am I going to live, with a family or in a flat?
3 I would like to know how many hours I have to work at the weekend.
4 Could you tell me when the starting date for the job is?
5 Do you think you could tell me how long the course is and what it is about?
6 Please tell me how much it was or at least where I can get a new one.
7 Could you tell me how much the payment for this job is?
8 (Correct)

No answer necessary.

Report on Public Transport
1. Introduction
The aim of this report is to summarize the different ways in which you can travel from one place to another by public transport.
2. Buses
You have the chance to travel by bus. The means of transport is not expensive and there are a lot of different lines of buses covering the whole city. On the other hand, if there is a traffic jam, it can take you a lot of time to get to the place that you are going to.
3. Trains
This public transport is cheaper and faster than the bus. The main disadvantage is that it is not very safe.
4. Subway
The subway is the way to get to a place more quickly. It is safe and it is not so expensive either. A lot of workers use it, so you needn't get worried about the people who travel in it.

In conclusion, you have many ways to travel. You only have to choose the best way depending on the situation.

(Suggested answers:)
1 The purpose of this report
2 In contrast
3 The chief drawback
4 To sum up
5 According to

1 a precious Chinese vase
2 the stage lights
3 the number 50 bus
4 her daughter’s room
5 the starting time

1 You will never regret working like that in the summer.
2 (Correct)
3 Would you mind giving me your email address?
4 I suggest shortening your working hours.
5 (Correct)
6 The restaurant where I had decided to have supper was closed.
7 I also recommend providing this area with maps showing the whole school.
8 (Correct)

No answer necessary.

1 on 2 in 3 at 4 in 5 at 6 in 7 at 8 on
1 all kinds of information
2 one of my friends
3 for two reasons
4 every day
5 after a few seconds
Dear Competition Director

First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is Lorenza Sanchez. I am sixteen years old, and I am Mexican. I have lived here in England for 5 years now, so I speak English very well, as well as Spanish, and a moderate amount of French.

I would very much like to work for you in The Sports Competition this coming March, for the following reasons.

Firstly, I am passionate about sports, and since my father and brother have extensive knowledge of various sports, I too know a lot about soccer, football, tennis and car racing.

Secondly, I am an experienced hockey player and also enjoy playing volleyball.

Furthermore, I would like to be involved in working with people from different countries because I am particularly interested in learning about other cultures.

I believe I would be an effective member of your international team of helpers, as I am a good communicator and I have a lot of stamina, so I can work long hours.

Please consider my application. I promise I will not let you down.

Yours truly

No answer necessary.

No answer necessary.

1 It’s a good idea because there are many things to do here.
2 I would like to ask you for toiletries like, for example, shampoo, soap, etc.
3 I am a 16-year-old boy from Argentina.
4 The school could buy some up-to-date furniture.
5 My father asked me: “What would you prefer, a holiday in the mountains or on the coast?”
6 Next week I will send you the money – don’t worry, I won’t forget.
7 I think that no-one is able to do this.
8 It was hard to get used to the new university, the people and the place.
Hi Maria,

Thanks for your letter, I was starting to wonder if you'd forget about our holidays together. I can't wait till the 2nd! I'm sure we're going to have a great time. I'm supposed to get to Luton airport at half past eleven in the morning, but you know how air traffic works so you'd better be there at midday so you don't have to wait for too long. Don't worry about not recognising me, as I haven't changed too much. I'm just about 20cm taller and I've grown whiskers on my chin, which is quite an uncommon look. Besides, I'll recognise you anyway.

Spending a week in Scotland sounds really weird, but I'd rather be prepared for it. I've heard the weather is very chilly there and it rains all the time, is that true? So, what kind of clothes should I wear there? Probably warm jumpers and a waterproof coat would do, don't you think so? By the way, I reckon a nice present we could take to your cousins would be a bottle of Spanish red wine, which is famous for its lip-smacking taste.

Anyway, I've been told the coast of Sussex is one of the best in the British Isles and, as you live quite near to it, I thought we might enjoy staying there for a few days. Write back and tell me what you think.

Lots of love,

[signature]

[Comments]

60 1 whole 5 waste
2 buy 6 too
3 piece 7 read
4 week 8 weather

No answer necessary.

61 (Suggested answers:)
1 excellent, wonderful, fantastic
2 consider, believe, imagine
3 also, in addition, too
4 beast, creature, monster
5 describe, outline, summarise
6 awful, terrible, ghastly
7 immediately, without delay, straightaway
8 build, construct, produce

No answer necessary.

62 1 I would prefer to sleep in a log cabin.
2 He thought that the man would be punished.
3 (Correct)
4 I hope this information will be useful for you.
5 It didn't work out as I thought it would.
6 The TV repair man is coming next Tuesday – I hope that will be ok?

63 ✔ = 4 normally, 9 necessarily
(Corrected answers:)
1 sincerely 7 particularly
2 really 8 faithfully
3 unfortunately 10 definitely
4 sincerely 11 extremely
5 actually 12 immediately

64 1 All these opinions and feelings change as you grow up.
2 If some people want to go shopping, take them to Serrano.
3 The police were very far from the house.
4 Many people have started to work at home.
5 Sometimes there isn't enough information.
6 I strongly believe that everybody loves both things.
7 Buying ready meals from the supermarket simplifies the day for me.
8 (Correct)
If you are used to riding a bicycle every day, you’ll be more active when you’re older.

I used to go camping at the weekend when I was younger.

(Correct)

Remember what you used to wear in your childhood.

I’m not used to wasting my time waiting around.

(Correct)

I’m also used to doing hard work. *

I used to play tennis for Chile in the Davis Cup.

(* Note that a more natural sentence would be I’m also used to hard work.)

I enjoy working with kids, in fact I used to teach in a primary school. (children)

When you finish reading it you’ll wanna read it again. (want to)

About when I would like to travel, I have two months off in July and August. (Regarding)

The first thing we must think about is whether our way of life ain’t too fast. (isn’t)

It is important to have a reasonable consumption of vitamins thru natural organic food. (through)

Do you prefer listening to live music or recorded music?

Nowadays we have different choices when we want to listen to music. We can enjoy a whole afternoon sitting on a sofa listening to our favourite group or we can go to a live concert where thousands of people will be screaming and fainting, but you will have the pleasure to hear somebody you like playing the guitar or singing in front of you. If you are with a group of friends you will enjoy a meeting listening to music at home, and this has the advantage that you can hear as many different CDs as you want. However, on the other hand, it is amazing to go to a live concert and feel how the adrenaline bursts into your body when the band is playing. In conclusion we can say that it depends on the situation when you prefer recorded music to live music. If you want to be relaxed, nothing is better than a recorded tape, but if you want to feel some excitement, nothing is better than a live concert.

(* Note that a better choice of phrasal verb here would be runs through, although the examiner was impressed that the candidate knew bursts into!)
I was wondering about the kind of clothes I will have to wear. When we arrived at the hospital, there were no doctors or patients, there was nobody! I am looking forward to hearing from you. I just had to move my eyes from one side to the other and look as though/if nothing had happened. He has been named as the best Latin singer. So I can only pick the keys up at 4 o’clock on the 5th. I think it is necessary to have a coffee shop with takeaway food. I’d like to sleep in a tent because a log cabin isn’t as authentic as a tent.

No answer necessary.

No answer necessary.

No answer necessary.

No answer necessary.

No answer necessary.

No answer necessary.

No answer necessary.

What is more, As well as that, In addition

If not, Despite this, On the one hand

To sum up, In short, On the whole

As regards