STUDY NOTES

EPISODE 17 WATER AND AGEING

In the Academic Module of **IELTS Writing Task 1 and**

Be careful that your writing is consistent, in other words,

Always leave some time to

Writing Task 2, it is

important to use formal

different writing styles

should not be mixed.

Study Tips

English.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL WRITTEN **LANGUAGE**

Students writing academic essays would be expected to use formal English, and maintain consistency and uniformity in their writing, in other words, formal and informal styles would not be mixed.

Formal language is characterised as being more objective and impersonal. It is the type of written language that would be used in academic writing, official reports, documents and other similar genres.

characteristic of the kinds of writing found in newspapers, magazines, advertising, personal letters and so on.

check your writing. Informal writing, on the other hand, would be

Students writing academic essays would be expected to use formal English, and maintain consistency and uniformity in their writing, in other words, formal and informal styles should not be mixed. Formal language is characterised as being more objective and impersonal.

These notes summarise the main features, which differentiate formal and informal written language.

GRAMMAR			
FEATURE	FORMAL LANGUAGE	INFORMAL LANGUAGE	
 relative pronoun and the position of the preposition 	The results depended on the cylinder in which the liquid was placed. The scientists for whom the funds are being collected proceeded with the experiment.	The results depended on the cylinder which (or: that) the liquid was placed in. The scientists whom the funds are being collected for proceeded with the experiment.	
 contractions are to be avoided in formal writing. 	The study did not commence because of the difficulties.	The study didn't start because of the difficulties.	



IELTS PREPARATION

	FEATURE	FORMAL LANGUAGE	INFORMAL LANGUAGE
•	impersonal style for formal language, using passive constructions, especially when describing procedures	The procedures were written by specialists in the field.	The specialists in the field wrote the procedures.
•	use of abstract nouns in formal writing	The judge sought clarification of the differences.	The judge wanted the differences explained.
•	avoid personal pronouns (I, you, we) and use the impersonal 'one' or constructions with 'it is' or 'there is/are'	One should consider the options. It is said that	You should consider the options. They say that
	using language that is tentative	modal verbs: can, could, should, may, would Example: The government should require industry to pay for removing its waste. adverbs: probably, possibly, perhaps Example: Although this is an old and probably ineffective method, there is nothing on the market that could replace it. adjectives: probable, possible Example: A possible solution to the problem requires industry to pay for removing its waste. nouns: possibility, claim, evidence Example: The scientists were concerned with the possibility of side effects from the untested drug.	
•	repetition should be avoided in formal style	Environmental pollution will be the focus of this study. It is a serious problem facing mankind today.	Environmental pollution will be the focus of this study. Environmental pollution is a serious problem facing mankind today.





IELTS PREPARATION

SENTENCE COMPLEXITY AND LINKING WORDS

- use of a variety of simple, compound and complex sentences for more formal writing
- avoid beginning sentences with coordinating conjunctions 'and' and 'but' (these conjunctions join sentences not start them)
- predominance of simple sentences is less formal than a variety of simple, compound and complex sentences

Air pollution is harmful to plants because of the effects of poisonous gases. **In addition**, **it** can damage the ozone layer.

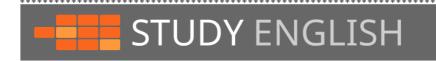
linking words expressing	formal	less formal
addition	moreover, furthermore, in addition to	also, and, besides
opposition	nevertheless, nonetheless	but
result	consequently, accordingly	SO,
referring to a subject	with reference to, regarding	at any rate, anyway
cause and effect	accordingly, therefore, thus, consequently	so
ordering	first(ly), in the first place	and, and then





ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS				
FEATURE	FORMAL LANGUAGE	INFORMAL LANGUAGE		
 the term is written in full the first time it appears in the writing followed by its abbreviation or acronym in brackets Latin abbreviations are written in full 	After her brilliant performance in <i>Hamlet</i> , Jane was excited by the prospect of becoming a student at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).	Most of the students who performed last night were graduates of NIDA .		
	The Institute offers programs for all phases of teaching and training of educational personnel. For example, it provides advanced work in counselling, pastoral care and guidance.	The Institute offers many training programs, e.g. advanced work in counselling, pastoral care and guidance.		





ELTS PREPARATION

VOCABULARY				
use of phrasal or	Examples			
prepositional verbs are	Formal choice	Phrasal verbs		
inappropriate in formal	abolish	do away with		
writing	complete	fill in		
	conduct	carry out		
	consider	weigh up		
	discover	find out		
	distribute	hand out		
	encounter	come across		
	invent	make up		
	reconsider	think again		
	review	go over		
examples of more	absence of	no		
formal vocabulary	accurate	right		
usually found in	advantageous	useful, helpful		
academic writing	advised	told		
Note: longer words are	alternatively	or		
more formal than shorter	beneficial	useful, helpful		
	commence	begin, start		
	conceal	hide		
	consecutive	following on, next to		
	consolidate	combine, join, merge		
	deteriorate	get worse		
	diminish	lessen		
	duration	time		
	endeavour	try		
	explain	show, tell		
	identical	same		
	indicate	show, write down		
	initial	first		
	maintain	keep, support		
	marginal	small, slight		
	modify	change		
ALLIA	occur	happen		
71214	preserve	keep		
P	probability	chance		

