



KEP 34: IELTS Writing Task 2: Say This, Not That! | Avoid These Common Mistakes

Hello and welcome to Kev's English Podcast, real English every week, with your host Kev Dean. Hello, hello, it's Kevin here. This should be episode 34 of my Kev's English Podcast on theenglishnative.com, so hello and welcome back.

So, say this, don't say that, or don't write that, I should say. But alternative, so IELTS writing task 2. So, the previous, so three episodes back, I started talking about IELTS speaking, did two episodes there, talking about why people were getting stuck on band 6, band 5.5, etc. I explained how that worked and gave you some suggestions.

I'm going to be working more on that this coming week. So, there'll be some more episodes where I'm going to give you some examples of memorised, rehearsed answers compared with some more natural answers. Anyway, that's something for you to look forward to, that's happening in the future.

So, what I'm going to talk about today, well, the previous episode I explained what not to write and in this episode I'm going to tell you what to write instead. Say this, not that, some more natural, clear natural alternatives to memorised, vague phrases that people often use in the writing. I mentioned one in the previous episode, one of my students, I just marked an essay that she sent me, let me see if I can find it, and it had another one of those expressions and I told her, I said don't do it.

What she did, let me see, what was it? Something like, in this essay I will do blah blah blah, it doesn't really say anything. Let me just quickly check and see what she actually said. Ah, right, right, right.

So, we're talking about global fashion trends. This essay will discuss different methods before giving my opinion about this trend. That's a clear example there.

And despite acknowledging the potential merits of this phenomenon, again, memorised phrase, an examiner is going to see them a mile away and he's going to mark you accordingly. Don't be surprised if you only get a six if you keep using these memorised phrases. So, what to say instead? So, as I just said, don't say, well, right, don't say, this essay will discuss, I'll give a conclusion before

my opinion is revealed.

Say instead, although some people believe that advertising manipulates consumers, I would argue it simply reflects demand. So, you've got a clear outline, you know, instead of saying, this essay will discuss both sides, you could say, even though some people believe blah blah blah blah, in my opinion, blah blah blah blah is a better alternative or something similar, yeah? So, instead of, you know, meaningless stuff, you're actually giving some idea of what you're going to talk about, which is good. Right, so let's think of some more.

Since the dawn of time, I was talking about this again with one of my students earlier this morning. And, you know, like, they had that controversy, debate crap in it, you know. So, since the dawn of time, the issue of, blah blah blah, the phenomenon of, has been a controversial subject.

Oh dear. If the examiner, you know, these huge abstract openings don't impress the examiner. One, it's a waste of space.

You've only got 250-280 words. You've got 40 minutes, maybe 30 minutes to actually write it. So you don't be wasting time with, you know, in recent years, in the contemporary era, since the dawn of time, the issue of this phenomenon has been a global debate.

Oh dear, dear, don't do it. If the examiner sees that crap, he's going to automatically start thinking, hmm, hmm, six. So, don't do it.

There's no need, all we need to do, sentence one, restate the topic. According to some, X is Y, while other people think Y is X. In my view, X is Y because blah blah blah. Get to the point.

Get to the point, simply paraphrase. What's up about global fashion? Hmm. Global fashion... Global fashion has a significant impact on the way people dress around the world.

In my view, the reason for this is due to advertising and... the influence of social media. Right, bang. That's it.

Global fashion has a significant effect on the way many people dress around the world. In my view, this is due to the effects of advertising and social media pressure. Boom, two sentences.

Get to the point, good outline, and the examiner knows where it's going. OK, so in-your-body paragraphs. Don't say, a lot of people think stuff like that, things are getting better.

Instead, many individuals argue that. Common examples include living standards have improved in many urban areas. Right, so avoid stuff, things a lot of people think.

OK, we're moving from casual to clear academic language. Now, as I keep saying, in the speaking section, you can do this. Well, you know, a lot of people think, ah, all this kind of stuff about... In the speaking, that's good, that's natural, that's what people say.

But in your writing, we need to be academic. Don't say, the crux of the matter. A key issue is, what an important factor is.

OK, so, oh yeah, hang on, and there was that other phrase, well, what did I just say? Foremost, yeah, yeah, one of my other students sent me one, it was an introductory sentence for paragraph two or three. Foremost among my reasons for... First and foremost among the... All you've got to do is get to the point. One important factor in why people dress the same around the world is, yeah, clear,

cleaner, get to the point.

OK, it's just that simple. Examiners will thank you for it. Now, conclusions.

Again, keep it clear. In a nutshell, to pen down all you should ever say is, in conclusion. You can say, to summarise, I don't like it because it's a conclusion, you're concluding, it's not a summary, really.

So don't say, in a nutshell, to pen down, I opine, in conclusion. So, oh yeah, also, don't say this, right, right. The aforementioned arguments offer insights into vindications for the impression that... No, that's nonsense.

The aforementioned arguments offer insights into vindications for the impression that... Oh dear. Instead, you could say, in conclusion, while online learning has benefits, in-person education remains more effective for younger students. Simple, to a point.

OK, let me give you a specific example here. OK, right. So, imagine our question is, some people believe that universities should only accept the best academic students, while others think students of all ages and abilities should be accepted.

Discuss both views and give your opinion. Now, a very weak crap intro. Since the dawn of time, education has been a controversial issue.

This essay will discuss both sides and give a conclusion. Or, while some argue that university places should be reserved for top-performing students, others believe that access to higher education should be open to all. I support the latter view, as equal opportunity leads to greater social progress.

Which do you think? That or, since the dawn of time, education has been a contemporary phenomenon of controversy, this essay will vindicate my impression by giving aforementioned... What do you think? What do you think the examiner is going to favour? I think you can probably work out which. So, quick recap, right. Avoid saying, this essay will discuss... Get to the point.

Direct opinion. Outline sentence. Since the dawn of time, you can say in recent years or you don't have to use it at all.

Or currently. You can just say currently. So, stuff things a lot.

That's too informal. In a nutshell, in conclusion. So, no over-complicated expressions.

Clear, direct language. The examiner doesn't have time to try and work out what you're saying. You need to treat us, readers, teachers, examiners, as if we were stupid.

You need to be direct and clear. The examiner has got a big pile of essays to mark, as I have every day for my charming, lovely, italki students. I don't really mind.

But, when I see the same phrases and sentences every day, it does get a little bit wearing. So, imagine how the examiner feels. What do you think the examiner is going to do? Is he going to look with favour on your... Since the dawn of time, the phenomenon of education has been an issue of highly controversy.

This essay will vindicate the aforementioned... What do you think the examiner is going to do? If you give him that. So, let's have a bit of practise. So, if you want to try this one, you can have a go.

Nowadays, technology is a double-edged sword. Or, technology has brought... Oh yeah, you're right, yeah. Don't use that.

A double-edged sword. Just don't. So, imagine nowadays technology is a double-edged sword.

Instead, you could say technology has brought convenience and efficiency, but it has also created new forms of isolation. So, instead of saying it's a double-edged sword, you've actually said what the two sides are. Technology... So, you know, while technology has brought convenience... You know, you could say... Hmm... While it is true that technology has brought convenience and efficiency, however, it has also created new forms of social isolation.

Hmm... That sounds good. That sounds good. So, whether you're listening or watching, if you're watching on YouTube, links below, wherever.

As always, if you... Depending where you listen to this, because it's on Spotify, it's on my... theenglishnative.com, my website. I make it into a video, I put it on my YouTube channel, The English Native. Also, it's on italki, my podcast there.

But if you want a transcript for this episode, or indeed any episodes, what you can do is go to theenglishnative.com, click on episodes, and you'll see, even if you can't play the audio because it's on Spotify and wherever you are, Spotify might not work, but you can click on and you can download a PDF of the transcript. Word for word. So, hope that helps.

See you next time. Any comments, questions, wherever you're listening, watching, add comments, you can contact me directly, all the links are there. So, excellent, I hope that gives you some ideas and I'll see you next time.