

COMMON MISTAKES

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IELTS Writing Task 1 (Academic & General Training)



1. No clear overview

- Many students skip the overview (main trend or summary), which is crucial for a high band.



2. Listing data without comparison

- Students often write all numbers separately instead of comparing key features.
-  Use words like *whereas*, *while*, *compared to*, *in contrast*.

3. Using informal language

-  “The graph is super high.”
-  “The graph shows a significant increase.”

4. Copying the question

- Paraphrase instead:
-  “The bar chart shows the number of...”
-  “The given bar chart illustrates how many...”

5. Ignoring data accuracy

- Small number mistakes or wrong year references can lower scores.

6. No clear structure

- Writing as one long paragraph instead of:
 - Introduction

- Overview
- 1–2 Body Paragraphs

7. Overusing numbers

- Don't include every single figure. Focus on major trends or differences.

8. Missing units or categories

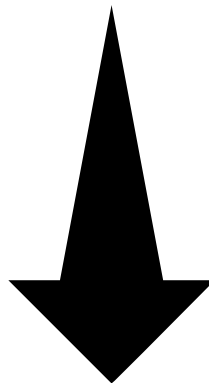
- Forgetting to mention % / years / country names leads to confusion.

9. Writing opinion (Academic Task 1)

- Task 1 Academic is *reporting data*, not giving opinions.

10. Word count issues

- Writing less than 150 words = automatic penalty.



IELTS Writing Task 2 (Academic & General Training)

◆ Common Mistakes:



1. Not answering all parts of the question

- For “Discuss both views and give your opinion,” students forget to give their own view.

2. No clear opinion or unclear position

- Band 7+ requires a *consistent and clear opinion* throughout.

3. Weak thesis statement

-  “There are advantages and disadvantages.”
-  “Although studying abroad offers global exposure, it can also lead to cultural challenges.”

4. Repetition of ideas or words

- Using same phrases repeatedly instead of synonyms.

5. Too informal

- Avoid: *I think, you know, a lot of, kids, stuff*
- Use: *It is believed that, many people argue that, children, issues*

6. Lack of linking words / cohesion

- Overusing “Firstly, Secondly” or not using connectors like *however, whereas, on the other hand*.

7. No paragraphing / poor structure

- Essays must have:
 - Introduction
 - 2–3 Body Paragraphs

- Conclusion

8. Underdeveloped ideas

- One-sentence explanations lead to low Task Response.
Always extend with *examples or reasons*.

9. Memorized templates

- Examiners easily detect overused patterns → lowers score for *Coherence & Cohesion*.

10. Spelling / Grammar errors

- Frequent errors in tense, article use, and punctuation.

11. Word count

- Less than 250 words = penalty.
- Over 350 words = risk of losing coherence.
- Leave 3 minutes at the end to check grammar and spelling.
- Focus on *clarity, accuracy, and structure* over fancy vocabulary.

