

Argumentative compositions

Some composition questions ask you to present the advantages and disadvantages of something or the arguments for and against an issue. You can do this in one of the following ways:

1. Present both sides of the issue equally.
2. Take one side and then support your opinion.
3. Present the arguments and then offer your own conclusions or suggestions..

You should present the arguments logically and try to include examples or facts which support them. When we **compare or contrast two things**, certain connectors are frequently used, for example: **both, just as, by comparison, contrary to...**

EXERCISE 1- Read the model composition about the advantages and disadvantages of old towns. Then answer the questions that follow it.

In my opinion, living in an old city is much better than living in a modern one. Old cities usually have beautiful architecture and many places of historical interest.

..... the fact that the streets are sometimes narrow and winding,, this only adds to the picturesque quality of such places. Old cities were often built around a central square or market-place which served as the social and commercial heart of the city.

....., I find that modern towns have rather ugly and uniform architecture. Such towns are built to cope with large numbers of cars, buses and people, all of which create noise and pollution. Modern cities tend to spread out over a large area;, it is hard to get around., modern cities have many facilities and large shopping centres; on the other hand, there are problems of parking around these centres. So modern cities are designed for life on the 20th Century, I prefer the unique atmosphere of timelessness in an old city. While we cannot all live in an old city, perhaps the solution for some is to live in a modern suburb of one.

- 1.A. Put the connectors below into the text. Make any necessary changes in punctuation: **in my opinion, although, on the one hand, by comparison, in spite of, therefore.**
- 2.B. How is the topic presented? (objectively, giving an opinion, etc...)

EXERCISE B - Choose one of the following topics and write a composition of approximately 100-120 words.

1. Catalonia has so much to offer that Catalans don't need to go abroad so often in order to have a good holiday. Do you agree or disagree?
2. Tourism is destroying Catalonia and The Balearic Islands. What do you think?