



IELTS READING/Writing MATERIAL 9-05-2018

By Johnny

Lesson Objective

Many times writers in high school or college must convey two contrasting ideas. This situation usually arises when students write about a controversial topic and they must take a position (**express their opinion**) about the two ideas.

Too often, students lack those **syntactic structures** or **containers** in which to “pour” their ideas. This lesson provides students with some of these structures and exercises to practice expressing their ideas about controversial issues.

Section One Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

ARTICLE A**Planetary Security**

Source



1. AFTER Germany revealed it has no contingency plans ready in the event of first contact with aliens, a former Ministry of Defense (M.O.D.) insider told to the *Express.co.uk* that nations are making a “big mistake” by not preparing.

Nick Pope, who worked for the British Government between 1985 and 2006, has claimed neither the UK nor any other country is truly prepared for whatever may be lurking in the void of space.

Between 1991 and 1994 Mr. Pope examined UFO sightings for the M.O.D. in a bid to determine if they had any defense-related significance.

The M.O.D. pulled the plug on the UFO project in 2009 and Mr. Pope has since extensively toured the world, giving lectures at seminars and alien-related conferences. Which is why he told to the *Express.co.uk* that he was not surprised to hear this month that the German government has no plan ready for the possibility of first contact with extraterrestrials.

Respond:

- a) All countries have planned for an Alien contact. True or false?
- b) What did Nick Pope realized in his thirty years of working in the British government?
- c) What has Pope been doing after the UFO Project shutdown?

2. Earlier in August, the German Ministry of Economics said in a statement it considered first contact “extremely unlikely according to current scientific knowledge”. Mr. Pope has now said people are quick to dismiss calls for the creation of contingency plans.

He told to the *Express.co.uk*: “I was interested but not surprised to see that Germany has no official plan for what to do in the event of encountering extraterrestrials. “The UK doesn’t have a plan either – nobody does – and I think this is a big mistake. “People respond to the suggestion of a plan in two ways. Sceptics say it’s a waste of time, while conspiracy theorists say there is a plan but the government isn’t telling us.” Mr. Pope is certain the UK does not have a contingency plan drafted because odds are he would have been the very person to write it up.



Nick Pope, UFO expert

**Respond:**

- a) Germans think the possibility of an Alien contact is high. True or false?
- b) How did the people react towards the idea of developing a plan for the event of an Alien contact?
- c) Why is Mr. Pope so sure that the UK doesn't have a contingency plan?

3. The UFO expert said "skepticism aside", it would be prudent for the Government to prepare for what could be the single "most high-impact scenario you could imagine" – meeting aliens. According to Mr. Pope, the Cabinet Office with input from the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser and the M.O.D. should coordinate this effort.

He outlined three main scenarios that would fall under the umbrella of alien first contact. This would include detecting radio signals from distant alien civilizations, discovering alien microbial life within the boundaries of the solar system or the arrival of alien ships and probes over Earth.

Respond:

- a) Experts said that regardless of being prepared or not, human kind will know how to deal with an encounter. True or false?
- b) According to the experts, how significant could a first Alien contact be?
- c) Among the most likely possibilities, is written language one them?

4. Mr. Pope said: "Some of the issues that need to be addressed in a plan include the potential biological hazard posed by extraterrestrial life, and the question of whether we should reply to any message we receive from aliens – and if so, who should reply and what should they say. "But there are more subtle issues. What if we pick up a message from another civilization but can't decipher it? Should it be published? "Given that it might contain advanced scientific and technological information that someone could weaponise, probably not. "There are bits and pieces of existing guidance that can help us with all this."

Mr. Pope said US space agency NASA has some guidance concerning "planetary protection" from potential extraterrestrial contaminants. But the UFO expert stressed little is being done in terms of binding legislation to cover these issues in a "single document", on a national and international scale. Mr. Pope said he is ready to draft such a contingency plan for further consultation with appropriate experts and stakeholders.

Respond:

- a) We are biologically prepared for any Alien contact. True or false?
- b) What are the concerns Mr. Pope expresses about regarding Alien messages?
- c) According to Mr. Pope, what would be the first step to commence engaging into an international agreement for planetary protection?



Section Two Writing skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to effectively write coherent and grammatically correct paragraphs based on randomly selected topics.

Help: Good persuasive or argumentative writing is not merely a matter of “pouring” ideas into an existing structure. The structures help, but in every case, you must think what you want to say about the issue, what makes most sense to you and to your reader.

Here Are Some Structures You Can Use to Communicate Contrasting Ideas:

- People who favor _____ suggest that _____. However, the truth of the matter is that _____.
- Proponents of _____ claim that _____. However, a more accurate view of this issue is that _____.
- Opponents of _____ argue that _____, but more realistically, _____.
- Those who are in favor of _____, but clearly, the more rational perspective is that _____.
- Well-meaning but misguided voters believe that _____. In contrast, those who have thought deeply about this issue believe that _____.
- Those who oppose _____ but a more pragmatic approach is to _____.

Exercise:

- Express two contrasting ideas about the given issues. Take a position and state it clearly. Use the above tips to structure your writing.
1. What would happen if UFOs tried to contact Earth?
 2. Impact on religion after a first Alien contact.
 3. Aliens and humans coexistence. Possible or unlikely?
 4. As a species, are we ready for a first Alien contact?
 5. Government responsible for representing human kind in a first Alien contact.