

EOI Topic Area: Health

Writing

Exercise 1

"In Spain nearly two children out of every ten are obese. This is nearly double the number compared to 20 years ago. This places Spain in third place after the US and the United Kingdom in terms of child obesity according to the International Association for Obesity. " How can we stop this worrying trend?

You are going to write an essay based on the statement above.

Plan your essay.

A. Add some more ideas to the table

Reasons	Suggestions
Parents have less time to cook these days Fast food is cheap _____	More information on TV Cookery lessons at secondary school _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

B. Organise your ideas.

- Introduction
- Reasons for the trend
- Suggestions for stopping the trend
- Conclusion

C. Useful linking phrases

- While some people think carefully about what they are eating..., others
- One practical suggestion is to
- Another idea could be to
- However ...

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Exercise 2

You have just been asked to write a report about the Health Care System in your region. An American university has asked for a simple description of the Health Care System.

Plan your report

Introduction – Say what the report is and who it is for

Part 1 – Where do people go when they get ill?

Part 2 – Where do people go when they need specialist health care?

Part 3 – How effective is the health care system in your region?

Conclusion – A short summary of all the above

Useful linking phrases

- I'd like to begin by giving an overview of...
- First of all...
- Secondly...
- I'd like to continue by looking at...
- On a personal note, I'd like to add that...
- All in all.../All things considered...

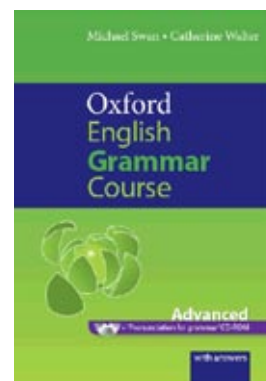
Useful phrases

- I am writing this report to...
- People who are suffering from minor illnesses...
- People affected by more serious illnesses like strokes or heart attacks...
- Victims of accidents...
- Specialist health care is provided by...
- Most people are happy/unhappy with the health care system...
- Some people believe that the health care system is inadequate because...

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Grammar

Find more grammar exercises like these in the
Oxford English Grammar Course (Advanced Level).



present perfect and simple past: revise the basics

meanings Both these tenses are used to talk about **finished** actions, situations and events. There is a difference.

The **present perfect** suggests that a finished action has some **connection with the present**.

The **simple past** does **not** suggest a **connection with the present**.

I've made a cake. Would you like a slice?

I didn't have much to do this morning, so I made a cake.

1 Read the sentences and choose the best answers to the questions.

- ▶ 'I've broken my glasses.' *Are the speaker's glasses broken?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know. **C** No.
- ▶ 'Anna went to London.' *Is Anna in London?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know.
- 1 'Sam has been elected chairman.' *Is Sam chairman?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know. **C** No.
- 2 'Mum has gone to church.' *Is she in church?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know. **C** No.
- 3 'Dad went to the pub.' *Is he in the pub?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know.
- 4 'The cat's caught a mouse.' *Has the cat got the mouse?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know. **C** No.
- 5 'Maggie caught a cold.' *Has Maggie got a cold?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know.
- 6 'Marlowe has written a novel.' *Is this a new novel?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know. **C** No.
- 7 'Holmes wrote a novel.' *Is this a new novel?* **A** Yes. **B** Probably not.
- 8 'I've finished cutting the grass.' *Is the grass short?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know. **C** No.
- 9 'She's travelled all over Africa.' *Is she still alive?* **A** Yes. **B** Don't know. **C** No.

Source: *Oxford English Grammar Course* (Advanced Level) by Michael Swan & Catherine Walter.

time words We **don't** often use the **present perfect** with words for a **finished time**.

I **went** out four evenings **last week**. (NOT *I've been out ... last week*.)

Jamie **phoned yesterday**. (NOT *Jamie has phoned yesterday*.)

We often use the **present perfect** with words for **time up to now**.

I've **been** out three evenings **this week**. I've **never seen** a fox.

Have you **read** this **before**? (= 'at any time up to now')

2 Circle the correct verb form.

- Several government ministers *were* / *have been* involved in a big bribery scandal last year.
- The people in the flat upstairs *disturbed* / *have disturbed* us every night this week.
- The aid agencies *distributed* / *have distributed* 2,000 tonnes of food to the refugees since May.
- All of our students *achieved* / *have achieved* excellent exam results last summer.
- I think I *saw* / *have seen* this film before.
- Most of yesterday's newspapers *commented* / *have commented* critically on Thursday's budget.
- The 1944 Education Act *attempted* / *has attempted* to ensure equal educational opportunities for everyone.
- We're all very pleased that the Managing Director *decided* / *has decided* to retire next autumn.



'I've spent 25 years making a name for myself and now you want me to CHANGE it?'

news and details We often announce a piece of **news** with the **present perfect**, and then use the **simple past** for the **details** of time and place.

I've **found** your glasses. They **were** in the car.

The President **has arrived** in London. He **was met** by the Prime Minister ...

3 GRAMMAR IN TEXTS. Read the reports and put in verbs from the box in the correct tenses.

be clash dig fire have identify reach take

- 1 Police in France with protesters striking over wage cuts. Riot police tear gas at a group of part

- 2 An oil spill the Welsh coast. The spill place early on Tuesday morn

- 3 Police eight suspects in last month's Birmingham car bomb attack. Six of the suspects non-British passports as

- 4 The fossilised remains of a giant shark found in Nebraska, US. Scientists up a gigantic jawbone, teeth and scales

Source: Oxford English Grammar Course (Advanced Level) by Michael Swan & Catherine Walter.

ANSWER KEY

Grammar

1.

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. A | 2. A | 3. B | 4. A | 5. B |
| 6. A | 7. B | 8. A | 9. A | |

2.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. were | 2. have disturbed | 3. have distributed | 4. achieved |
| 5. have seen | 6. commented | 7. attempted | 8. has decided |

3.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. have clashed, fired | 2. has reached, took |
| 3. have identified, had | 4. have been, dug |