

LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Activities to help students write a coherent, well-balanced For/Against essay about the countryside versus the city.

Practise writing a For / Against essay.

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Aim

To develop the student's writing skills

Materials

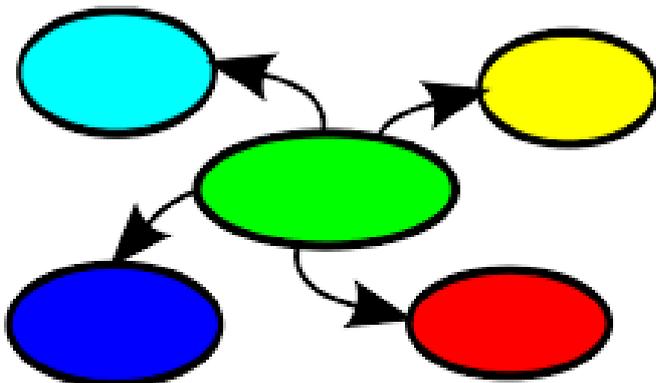
Worksheets 1 and 2

Language focus

Linking words of addition and contrast. Brainstorming ideas

Introduction

1. Introduce the topic 'Living in the countryside: Advantages and disadvantages'. Either show students an image of the countryside, for example, a small village or introduce the topic by telling an anecdote about a time you / a friend / relative lived in the countryside.
2. Brainstorm the advantages and disadvantages of life in the countryside and write the ideas on the board or use a 'mind mapping' online site to display the ideas visually in a mind map (see image below):



<https://bubbl.us/>



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Completing the Worksheets

Worksheet 1

- Give students Worksheet 1 and ask them to read the essay in order to identify how many of the advantages / disadvantages that they suggested are in the essay.
- Ask the students to look at the linking words in bold and decide whether the linking words are for 'addition' or 'contrast'.

Worksheet 2

- Give students Worksheet 2 (A or B) and ask them to complete the 3 sentences, using appropriate linking words. Then ask them to compare their sentences with their partner.
- With the whole class or with the students working in small groups, brainstorm the advantages and disadvantages of living in a city and note the ideas on the board / on an online mind map as a class or in small groups.
- Ask the students to complete the essay plan (Worksheet 2) by writing the ideas that they are going to include in the paragraphs.

Writing task

- Ask the students to write their own essays, either in class or for homework.

Extension

The students read five essays of others in the class and note down any further ideas that they did not include in their own essay. Ask them to write one idea for each essay. This will help them to generate ideas if they need to repeat the task at a later date. A possible follow-up task might be to ask your students to rewrite their essay incorporating the ideas they have seen in the other essays.