

Checklist for editing your IELTS Writing

Use this checklist whenever you write in English. After a while you will not even notice that you are automatically checking your work for mistakes and correcting them.



Remember, if you write on every other line you will have space to make neat corrections so the examiner will be able to read your work easily.

- 1 **Overall Structure** – have you addressed all parts of the task?
- 2 **Paragraphing** – do you start a new paragraph for each new idea?
- 3 **Coherence** – have you linked your ideas clearly, so they are easy to follow?
- 4 **Style** – have you used a formal or neutral style of English?
- 5 **Tenses** – are your tenses consistent?
- 6 **Prepositions** – are your prepositions correct?
- 7 **Articles** – have you missed out an article or added one where it is not needed?
- 8 **Subject-Verb agreement** – have you changed the verb to agree with the subject of the sentence?
- 9 **Spelling** – have you made spelling mistakes that could be avoided?
- 10 **Punctuation** – have you got full stops, capital letters, etc. where you need them?



Emma Cosgrave

Find more from Emma on [weloveielts.org](https://www.weloveielts.org)

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TASK:

Look at the piece of writing below, can you find 17 mistakes?

Use your 10-point checklist to remind yourself what you are looking for.

IELTS Academic Writing Task 1

The following maps show the changes that have taken place in the centre of a town since 1700.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

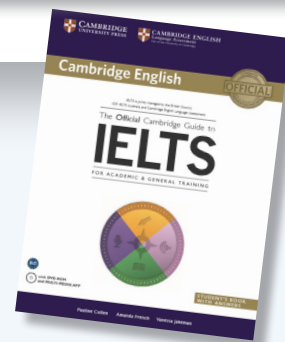
Town centre, 1700



Town centre today



Writing exercise adapted from page 110 of
Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS



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The two maps allows us to see the changes in one small town over 300 years. In the 1700s, the town was relatively small and consists of a few farms and houses gathered around a central marketplace and church. Transport restricted to horses at that time so the roads is very basic. Having said that, the roads were clearly marked and river had a bridge running accross it.

In the present-day town, a great deal changing. Perhaps the most noticable changes are those relating to transportation. Our modern-day needs are very different and so the roads are improving and traffic lights, a roundabout and a zebra crossing been adding, as well as an extra road. Many more traffic means that a car park replaced goode Farm and the fields that are located on the top of the 1700 map

Housing is another area where many changes have been made. while in 1700 there were only the few houses, now there are rows of houses and a block of flats instead of the stables.



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ANSWERS

The two maps **allow** us to see the changes in one small town over 300 years. In the 1700s, the town was relatively small and **consisted** of a few farms and houses gathered around a central marketplace and church. Transport **was** restricted to horses at that time so the roads **were** very basic. Having said that, the roads were clearly marked and **the** river had a bridge running **across** it.

In the present-day town, a great deal **has changed**. Perhaps the most **noticeable** changes are those relating to transportation. Our modern-day needs are very different and so the roads **have been improved** and traffic lights, a roundabout and a zebra crossing **have been added**, as well as an extra road. **Much** more traffic means that a car park **replaces Goode Farm** and the fields that are located **at** the top of the 1700 map. **(full stop was missing)**

Housing is another area where many changes have been made. **While** in 1700 there were only **a** few houses, now there are rows of houses and a block of flats instead of the stables.



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