

## INTERMEDIATE UNIT 5

### an essay

#### speakout WRITING TIP

When you write an essay discussing the advantages and disadvantages of something, it is a good idea to use certain expressions and linkers to make your meaning clear.

**1 Match words/expressions below to their uses: describe advantages; describe disadvantages; contrast ideas; give additional reasons; provide a personal opinion or conclusion.**

- 1 Having said that, ...
  - 2 The most serious problem with this is that...
  - 3 Another argument in favour of this is that, ...
  - 4 One of the main advantages of this is that ...
  - 5 However, in my opinion ...
  - 6 Another drawback with this is that ...
- a) used to describe advantages
  - b) used to describe disadvantages
  - c) used to contrast ideas
  - d) used to give additional reason
  - e) used to provide a reason, opinion or conclusion

**2 Read the essay. Identify two arguments in favour of nuclear power and two arguments against.**

#### Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power

The world is now facing a major energy crisis because traditional sources of energy are running out. In the past, many people criticised nuclear power because they thought that it was dangerous. However, they are now beginning to consider its advantages as well as its disadvantages.

One of the main advantages of nuclear power is that it is environmentally-friendly because it doesn't pollute the air.

In addition to this, it helps to decrease a country's dependence on imported energy and makes it more self-sufficient.

The main disadvantage of nuclear power is that it is not completely safe. Although experts maintain that it is one of the safest forms of energy, there have been several serious accidents in the past. Another disadvantage is that nobody wants to live next to a nuclear power plant.

In my opinion, nuclear power is a good solution to the energy crisis and its advantages outweigh its disadvantages.

The problem is that when it goes wrong, the consequences can be terrible. For this reason, we should replace nuclear power with cleaner and safer forms of energy if we discover them.

**3 Read the essay again. Look at the underlined words and put them in the correct place in the table.**

Introduce advantages	
Introduce disadvantages	
Contrast ideas	
Give additional reasons	
Give your personal opinion/ a conclusion	

**4 Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.**

however in my opinion in general  
this means that although

- 1 People don't like nuclear power \_\_\_\_\_ it has many advantages.
- 2 Experts say nuclear power is safe. \_\_\_\_\_, there have been some accidents.
- 3 Countries with nuclear power do not depend on imported energy. \_\_\_\_\_ they are more self-sufficient.
- 4 Some people may disagree, but \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear power is a good solution to the energy crisis.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ it is clear that we need to find new forms of energy.

**5 Write an essay on the advantages and disadvantages of smartphones.**

#### Plan your writing

- Think about the content of your essay. Remember to include an introductory paragraph and additional paragraphs outlining the advantages and disadvantages. Remember to give your own opinion in the conclusion.

#### Check your writing

- Have you used any of the expressions in exercise 1?
- Have you checked your grammar and spelling?
- Did you find any mistakes?