Lexis extension – IELTS Writing Task 2

Teacher’s notes

Aim:

Candidates can score better if they demonstrate a wider lexical range – but this vocabulary needs to be used appropriately, that is in the right way and in the right place. This exercise can help develop candidates’ ability to think of synonyms and go beyond the obvious vocabulary, to demonstrate comparatively less common examples.

Instructions

1. Refer to the IELTS Writing band descriptors, focussing on the Lexical resource, and particular bands 6 & 7. Ask students what are the key requirements in this criteria at these levels? (ANS: using range of vocabulary, and less common lexical items)

2. Explain this task is to help develop awareness and training of this area – thinking of different vocabulary, not just the obvious one

3. Ask students to read the essay on handout – firstly ask if they think it is a good essay, and why. (ANS: it is good, about band 7 level – it presents a clear position throughout the response; ideas are generally well-organised, and a range of cohesive devices is used effectively; good range of both vocabulary & sentence structures is used with some flexibility and precision)

4. Then ask students to consider possible answers in gaps – but they must come up with at least 3 answers (not just one). Depending on the strengths of your students, this can be done individually or in pairs.

5. If possible, put the word doc on the screen (via projector) and then elicit answers and write them in eg recreation/leisure/vacation.

6. During the recap, stress the importance of appropriate use of vocabulary, Chinese students tend to put in big words (ie less common lexical items) in places where these don’t fit. Particularly raise awareness of inappropriate use due to collocation or tone/connotation. Students need to learn to check these if they are not sure. A corpus engine can be useful eg http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/ as can be suggestions on learning vocabulary eg http://esl.about.com/od/englishvocabulary/ht/htvocab.htm

Exercise can be repeated regularly using different essays.

Possible answers (you and your students might come up with more)

(1) nowadays, in the 21st century, in the globalisation era, in this day and age
(2) downsides, disadvantages, drawbacks, minus points, negative aspects,
(3) recreation, leisure, vacation, spare time
(4) improves, enhances, fortifies
(5) income, revenue, earnings
(6) damage, erode, harm, spoil
(7) influence, sway, persuade, manipulate
(8) (carefully) managed, taken care of, dealt with
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Tourism is a very big industry and is growing quite rapidly. Thousands of people travel everywhere to various destinations every year. Arguments have come up regarding the benefits and of tourism in places and on its local inhabitants and environment; however, I believe there are more advantages than disadvantages of international tourism.

People travel for various reasons; we travel for business purpose, holidays, visit friends and relatives etc. Travelling is mostly seen as a activity. Tourism has many advantages. Tourism can play a tremendous part in a country’s economy, the more tourists visit a country and spend money there the better it is for the country; that way more money is circulated within the country and even the stability of the currency’s rate of exchange persists if not. Vendors and shops get to sell more goods and make more. Tourism also has its non-monetary advantages; it brings cultures and people closer. People from all around the world get to share their culture with each other and even learn more. This is a good opportunity in education.

Tourism seems to have some disadvantages too. However I believe the problems caused by tourism are not something that cannot be solved or prevented. A lot of people believe that tourism can destroy or traditional culture and cause quite an impact on visited locations, such as pollution and littering. People can adhere to their own beliefs and way of life if they want to; no one can really forcefully someone to change from their morals and ethics. Pollution can be avoided by increasing usage of environmentally friendly vehicles used for tours and rents, warnings and visual education on littering and smoking, specific times can be allocated for tours to certain areas, such as peak times where local inhabitants feel uncomfortable due to too many foreigners.

Where there are problems there can always be solutions. Tourism brings great amount of advantages for any place in many ways and is a win-win exchange process. The very few problems caused can always be avoided or. I believe tourism should be highly promoted, especially in traditional and poor countries with natural beauty such as Bangladesh.

Source: IELTS Scores Explained DVD (Script J)