

Writing Correction Symbols

Here are the symbols your Examiner will use to correct your writing. There are five categories: Content, Organization, Grammar, Vocabulary and Mechanics. Please check these to understand the details of what you will need to do to improve your score. Don't forget to refer to these every time you check your writing task. Also, your Examiner will provide you with some useful advice in the comments section. This symbol '*' means there is a specific comment about something. Your score, while accurate, is not an 'official' IELTS score. Good luck!

CONTENT

??? = I don't understand this word/phrase/sentence. Check sentence structure and meaning. *Rephrase in simple sentence structure (S + V + C).*

red. = Redundancy: Remove repeated/repetitive words.

ORGANIZATION

IP = Incorrect paragraphing: There needs to be one main idea per paragraph

TS = Topic sentence needed: Write a topic sentence using keywords from the question. (Topic + main idea + supporting idea(s))

XX = Take out this sentence/word/phrase: It does not support the topic, or it is unnecessary/redundant

GRAMMAR

(Or: This sentence needs to be rephrased due to incorrect sentence structure and possible translation from your native language.)

run-on = Run-on sentence or incorrect comma usage: Use a period to create two separate sentences, or use a conjunction to join the two clauses (*and, but, or*).

frag = Sentence fragment or incomplete sentence, usually due to the use of a dependent clause without a main clause. Change the punctuation or add the missing sentence element.



Gr = Major grammar problems. Rephrase in *simple sentence structure* (S + V + C).

art = Article mistake. Check for general or specific use of the noun.

'V' = A 'V' may be used as a *symbol*, meaning a word or phrase is missing here. The missing article or preposition etc. will be written above or below the 'V' mark.

Tns = Incorrect verb tense used. Check for time expressions that indicate the appropriate tense.

prep = Incorrect preposition. Use the appropriate preposition for location, time etc. Check the dictionary for V + prep, ADJ + prep, and N + prep phrases.

vf = Incorrect verb form (verb ending). Check for S + V agreement and verb tense.

pr = Pronoun reference problem. Identify the noun that you want to refer to in the same or previous sentence. Use the pronoun that agrees with the referent noun.

wo = Incorrect word order. Use S + V + Place-Time word order.

VOCABULARY

voc = Vocabulary mistake (wrong word). Check your bilingual dictionary for the meaning you wanted to express, then an English to English dictionary for usage.

wf = Incorrect word form, for example a noun instead of an adjective. Check for the word form needed.

MECHANICS

Sp = Incorrect spelling; check your English to English dictionary for usage.

P = Punctuation mistake

cap = Capitalization mistake.