

**Useful phrases for FCE (Cambridge First Certificate) Writing Part One essays
brainstorming and key words**

Brainstorm at least two or three useful phrases for doing the things written below:

Introduction

Background to the topic (why it is important etc)

Explaining the structure of your essay

Introduction/ Body

Giving strong opinions

Giving weak opinions

Strongly agreeing

Weakly agreeing

Strongly disagreeing

Weakly disagreeing/ Politely disagreeing

Body
Supporting your opinions
Personal experience

Giving examples

Other people opinions and knowledge/ Things you heard and read

Giving reasons/ Cause and effect/ Consequences

Further explanation

Looking at both sides/ Looking at the other side/ Contrasting

Final paragraph
Summarising/ Conclusion

Recommending/ Giving advice/ Talking about solutions/ Adding a further point that leads on from your conclusion

Key words

Use the words below to help with the task above. Using other forms of the words is also possible.

Introduction**Background to the topic (why it is important etc)**

believed
common
change
controversial
last
lot
majority
modern
news
people
society
two
world

Explaining the structure of your essay

both
divided
reasons
then

Introduction/ Body**Giving strong opinions**

absolutely
certain
clear
definitely
doubt
honest
obvious
really
strongly

Giving weak opinions

arguments
both
experience
expert
humble
know
personal
would

Strongly agreeing

agree
more
right
sense
think

Weakly agreeing

accept
agree
sense

Strongly disagreeing

accept
agree
merit

Weakly disagreeing/ Politely disagreeing

agree
but

Body**Supporting your opinions****Personal experience**

experience
found

Giving examples

example
instance
such

Other people opinions and knowledge/ Things you heard and read

according
once

Giving reasons/ Cause and effect/ Consequences

caused
consequence
due
order
reason
result

Further explanation

other
say



Looking at both sides/ Looking at the other side/ Contrasting

also
hand
opposite
side
spite
turning

Final paragraph

Summarising/ Conclusion

above
all
although
balance
conclude
having
outweigh
restate
said
sum
whole

Recommending/ Giving advice/ Talking about solutions/ Adding a further point that leads on from your conclusion

best
choice
government
really

Compare your answers with those on the next page, then test each other in pairs:

- Read out sentences with the key words missing from one section
- Read out key words and help your partner make the sentences
- Just give the name of the section and help your partner come up with as many sentences with that function as you can

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Suggested answers

Many other answers are possible, so please check any other sentences you wrote with your teacher.

Background to the topic (why it is important etc)

It is widely **believed** that...

... is a **common** talking point./ It is a **common** view that.../ It is **commonly** thought that.../

There is a **common** opinion that...

There has been a **change** in...

...is a **controversial** topic./ is very **controversial**.

Over the **last** few years/ decades...

There has been a **lot** of discussion of.../ There has been a **lot** of debate over.../ There has been a **lot** of controversy over...

The **majority** of people (who I know) seem to think that...

In **modern** life,...

... has been getting a lot of **newspaper** coverage recently./ ... has been in the **news** a lot recently. .

For **people** nowadays,.../ (In my country) many (older/ younger) **people** (think/ say that)...

It is often **said** that...

In today's **society**,...

There are **two** very different points of view on the topic of...

In our globalised **world**,...

Explaining the structure of your essay

I will examine **both** sides below and then give my own opinion./ After looking at this matter from **both** sides, I will...

I have **divided** my essay into three parts.

I will give three **reasons** for that below.

I will look at/ write about/ examine/ consider/ discuss ... and **then** ...

Giving strong opinions

I'm **absolutely** certain that.../ I'm **absolutely** positive that.../ I'm **absolutely** convinced that.../ There can be **absolutely** no doubt that.../ I have **absolutely** no doubt that...

I am **certain** that.../ I **certainly** don't believe that ...

It seems **clear** to me that.../ It is **clear** to me that...

I would **definitely** say that...

I have (absolutely) no **doubt** that.../ There can be (absolutely) no **doubt** that.../ I don't think anyone can **doubt** that.../ Without (the shadow of) a **doubt**...

In my **honest** opinion,...

It seems **obvious** to me that.../ It is **obvious** to me that.../ **Obviously**...

I **really** think that...

I **strongly** believe that.../ I **strongly** object to (the idea that)...

Giving weak opinions

Although the **arguments** for/ against are also quite convincing,.../ Although there are also **arguments** for/ against...

Although there are **both** advantages and disadvantages,...
I don't have much **experience** of this, but.../ In my limited **experience**,...
I'm no **expert** on this, but...
In my **humble** opinion,...
As far as I **know**,.../ I don't **know** (very) much about this topic, but.../ To the best of my **knowledge**,...
In my **personal** opinion,.../ I **personally** feel that ...
I **would** guess that.../ I **would** imagine that.../ I **would** probably say that...

Strongly agreeing

I strongly/ totally/ wholeheartedly **agree** that...
I couldn't agree with... **more**.
... is absolutely **right**.
...makes complete **sense**.
... is exactly/ just what I **think**.

Weakly agreeing

I can probably **accept** that.../ I might be able to **accept** that...
I partially/ partly **agree** with...
... seems to make **sense**.

Strongly disagreeing

There's no way I can **accept** that...
I can't **agree** with the idea of.../ I don't **agree** at all with.../ I **really** don't agree with...
I can't see any **merit** in...

Weakly disagreeing/ Politely disagreeing

I don't really **agree** with.../ I don't think I **agree** with.../ I'm not sure that I **agree** with...
I can see why some people might think that, **but**.../ I can understand why people think that, **but**...

Supporting your opinions

Personal experience

A relevant **experience** I had was.../ Although I don't have (much) **experience** of this...../
Experience has shown me that.../ From personal **experience**, I would say.../ I (once) **experienced** this when.../ In my (personal/ limited/ own) **experience**,.../ This is supported by my own **experience** in that...
I have (generally) **found** that...

Giving examples

A (good) **example** of this is.../ An **example** from my own experience is.../ For **example**,.../
To give an **example**,.../ One (typical/ well known) **example** of this is...
For **instance**,...
..., **such** as...

Other people opinions and knowledge/ Things you heard and read

According to an article that I read last week,.../ **According** to one of my professors...

I **once** heard that.../ I **once** read that.../ I **once** saw a television programme in which.../ Someone **once** told me that...

Giving reasons/ Cause and effect/ Consequences

This is **caused** by...

As a **consequence** of this,.../ One **consequence** of this is...

This is **due** to...

... in **order** to...

For that **reason**,.../ The main **reason** for that is...

As a **result** of that,...

Further explanation

In **other** words.../ To put that **another** way,...

That is to **say**...

Looking at both sides/ Looking at the other side/ Contrasting

... but you could **also** say that...

On the other **hand**,...

It is also possible to argue the **opposite** point that...

Looking at the other **side** of the argument,...

Despite (all) this.../ In **spite** of all this,...

Turning to the opposing argument,.../ **Turning** from the pros to the cons,...

Summarising/ Conclusion

As should be clear from the arguments **above**,.../ For (all) the reasons given **above**,.../

Taking (all) the things **above** into account,...

Overall,.../ All in **all**,...

Although the arguments against are also quite convincing,.../ **Although** there are also arguments for (such as...)/ **Although** there are both advantages and disadvantages above,...

On **balance**, I would say that...

I therefore **conclude** that.../ In **conclusion**,...

Having considered (all) the points above,.../ **Having** weighed up both sides of the argument,...

The benefits of ... **outweigh** the drawbacks.

To **restate** the arguments above,...

As I **said** in the introduction, I am convinced that...

To **sum** up what I have written above,.../ To **summarise** the points above,...

On the **whole**,...

Recommending/ Giving advice/ Talking about solutions/ Adding a further point that leads on from your conclusion

The **best** idea is to.../ The **best** solution is.../ The **best** thing to do would be...

We have (absolutely) no **choice** but to...

The **government** should do something about/ find a solution for/ put more effort into/ work towards/ deal with/ take action on/ take care of/ try to solve...

We **really** must.../ We **really** need to.../ We **really** have to.../ We **really** should...