

# IELTS Writing Correction Service

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Question Type: Position

Question Number: 7

Question: Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Others, however, think that change is always a good thing. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

## Introduction Paragraph

### + Introduce the topic:

Some prioritise a stable life over an unstable one and avoid change; in contrast, others think that change can always yield positive results.

### + Thesis Statement:

I personally agree with the opinion of the latter camp.

👍 - This is the correct approach to a "discuss both sides" essay. Choose one of the viewpoints given to you in the question.

## Extra Comments 🗨️:

👍 You introduced the topic accurately

👍 You chose one of the sides presented in the topic

🤖 I expect to see 1 paragraph explaining the logic of 1 side, and then 1 paragraph explaining the view of the other side and your support for it.

## Body 1: Point / Conclusion:

"..."

[C&C] - No clear topic sentence given.

💡 - "On the one hand, there are a few reasons why some people choose to stick with what they're familiar with."

[TR] - Make sure you are addressing the views expressed in the topic. Don't let the reader confuse them with your own ideas.

## Evidence / Supporting Details:

R1) ~~On the one hand~~, Some people resist change to avoid taking risks. Making a change, especially a noticeable one, often involves a certain level of uncertainty. Whether it is about ~~changing~~ **quitting a** job which may lead to financial strain for weeks or months, or about changing methods of investing which might lead to a loss of capital.

This can happen when workers resign from their jobs for the better and become jobless for a lengthy period while searching for a new one and when investors face a decrease in their capital due to unfamiliarity with the financial market. Thus, some individuals avoid change to stave off the possible problems associated with it.

[C&C] - Just focus on **1 example at a time**. Having 2 simultaneous examples is tricky to follow and unnecessarily complex. It doesn't make the idea clearer either. The financial example is quite vague "unfamiliarity with the stock market". The stock market often surprises people and is famously volatile. So everyone involved in it always faces risks.

[TR - C&C] - This supporting evidence would have been better if you focused on the **benefits** of staying with one thing, rather than just avoiding potential problems. I think this also gives you more ideas to play with.

- [💡] - Sticking with the familiar can give people comfort. People often visit the same hotels, countries, do the same type of vacations, or enjoy the same meals because they know what to expect. They've reduced the chance of having a bad or satisfying experience.

- [💡] - Some people stick with one hobby or sport because they want to master it. Running long distances at a quick pace, for example, takes years of dedication and training, and can only be achieved through consistency and repeated effort.

- [💡] - In addition, for many people, a reliable exercise routine is part of their day that they can rely on on stressful days. This means that even when they are stressed or worried, they can be reassured that there is a reliably healthy outlet for them each day to help them decompress or relax.

#### Extra Comments 🗨️:

- **Focus on smaller, more reasonable, incremental results.** In other words, things that get better, easier, smaller or cheaper. Or focus on things that help people achieve **smaller, everyday** goals. (*doing more exercise, relieving some stress, spending time with family*) etc.

#### Body 2: Point / Conclusion:

“...”

[C&C] - No clear topic sentence given.

[💡] - “On the other hand, I also understand and support those who purport the idea of embracing change.”

[TR] - Remember, this is a Discussion essay, we should explore both viewpoints and **build our opinion around one of them.**

#### Evidence / Supporting Details

**R1)** Some people embrace change to improve their lives. This trend has been observed among those aiming to improve their financial status. For instance, many Chinese business owners unable to peddle their products to other countries due to language barriers have **mastered English in recent decades** and expanded their market globally. This measure has resulted in more sales and profit. Therefore, **some people** welcome change to boost their financial status and expand their careers.

[C&C] - Not a great example. Their “change” was just learning a new skill.

[💡] A better example would be them changing their products, changing their business model, changing their approach in order to sell the product.

[C&C + 📖] - “Some people” is also not a good reference to a *very specific group* of people you mentioned (“Chinese business owners.”) A better reference would be: “*Businesspeople who want to break into new markets.*” / “*Those with high ambitions in business.*”

[💡] - Here are some more obvious, easier and more relatable IELTS ideas to support this viewpoint:

- Changing industry for better career prospects and salary
- Trying new countries or food to have new experiences
- Trying new hobbies to gain new skills or discover new passions
- Moving city to chase job opportunities or experience a new culture / lifestyle

[TR] - One key issue. Without the addition of my topic sentence, I would not see your opinion in this paragraph. You have described *why some people* think that changing is a good idea, but I can't see if you agree or not.

Unfortunately this would limit your Task Response score to Band 6.

#### Extra Comments 🗨️:

- **Remember that your vocabulary influences your coherence and cohesion scores because it helps to connect ideas together.**

<b>Conclusion Paragraph:</b>	In conclusion, some resist change to avoid risk, while others embrace it to change their lives for the better; <b>I would also argue that</b> change is always a positive trend. <b>[TR / C&amp;C]</b> - It's good that I can see your opinion here, but it still isn't coherent because I don't see your opinion in any of the body paragraphs, so sadly, this doesn't change the TR or C&C scores.
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<b>Band &amp; Criteria Feedback:</b>  <b>Overall Score: Band 6.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Task Response: 6.0</b> - You chose a view that was presented in the topic. However, this view was not presented clearly <i>throughout</i> the essay.</li> <li>- <b>Coherence &amp; Cohesion: 6.0</b> - Lack of topic sentences hurt this score a lot. The support and examples often had very vague effects and descriptions. Be more precise and grounded to make more convincing arguments. Always try to give tangible examples of improvements (even if it's obvious!)</li> <li>- <b>Vocabulary: 7.0</b> - Spelling was good. Word choice affected the coherence negatively, but overall well done.</li> <li>- <b>Grammar: 8.0</b> - Grammar was excellent in fact. I made no grammatical changes. Well done.</li> </ul>
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**Extra Comments** 🗨️: There are some important lessons in here Camila! The “discussion” essay format is tricky, and requires quite a careful and specific approach. However, by making the simple changes to topic sentences and adding your opinion more obviously, this essay could have been a 7.0 or higher. I've made my opinion nice and clear in Body 2 of my example essay below. Read the example and take this on board. I look forward to reading your next work!

<b>Feedback Key:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- [👍] <b>Great! Well done!</b> - This sentence or paragraph is well-written, logically presented, addresses the task or supports your opinion / topic sentence.</li> <li>- [TR] <b>Task Response</b> - If your ideas and arguments are not addressing the specific topic and specific question presented in the essay question. Any ideas or conclusions outside of the topic will harm this criteria.</li> <li>- [C&amp;C] <b>Coherence &amp; Cohesion</b> - How well you logically build and present your reasons. Do the examples support the point? Is the conclusion of this point logical? It's also the connection between your position and the conclusions you reach in Body 1 and Body 2.</li> <li>- [🔧] <b>Grammar</b> - Tenses, articles, prepositions, word order and other grammar changes that would be considered mistakes.</li> <li>- [📖] <b>Wording / Vocabulary</b> - Words or phrases that are unclear or unfamiliar to native English readers. They may harm Vocabulary or Coherence &amp; Cohesion scores.</li> <li>- [💡] <b>Alternative Reasons</b> - I will suggest a different argument that more clearly supports your overall position, or the topic sentence of the body paragraph</li> <li>- [?] <b>Confusing / Unclear</b> - I am not sure what you are trying to prove or explain. The wording or example could be unclear. Sometimes this is due to cultural differences or examples that I (a British person) am not familiar with.</li> </ul>
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Questions about the feedback? Email me: [mark@markteacher.com](mailto:mark@markteacher.com)  
 (Sample essay on next page)

## IELTS Task 2 Essay Sample

**Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Others, however, think that change is always a good thing. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.**

People have **varying** attitudes to change. There are those who prefer to follow a routine by doing the same things every day. Meanwhile, there are people who **embrace** change because they believe it always brings them a lot of benefits. I also believe that change is more often a **force for good**.

In regards to people who avoid change, one main reason they do so is simply because change can be scary. New situations can be **unpredictable**, so naturally people worry that they will make mistakes if they are unprepared. This is particularly true at work, where being unprepared for a new task can lead to poor performance or **costly errors**, which could even mean losing their job. Furthermore, having a routine creates comfort for some people. If they know what to expect each day at work or at home because everything has been planned **in advance**, it can reduce **anxiety** and allow their minds to focus on other important matters. Therefore, it's understandable why people avoid **potential** anxiety by **sticking** to the same responsibilities at work and the same routines in daily life.

However, in my view, there are many strong arguments for viewing change as a good thing too. Firstly, change can be **risky**, but it almost always teaches people new skills. For example, if someone starts a new job, they will be under pressure to perform tasks that they might not be familiar with, but the **prevailing** argument is that attempting this new task will make someone develop new **skill sets** and abilities. As a result, people can become more experienced and **valuable** workers. Secondly, while change can be **disruptive**, it can also be rewarding. It is argued that **stepping outside your comfort zone** is the only way to truly **grow as a person** and not be limited by fear or **anxiety**. Travelling, for example, presents people with unexpected situations every day, but by finding solutions, it shows them how **capable** they actually are in difficult **circumstances**. This **realisation** often comes with a boost in **self-esteem**. Therefore, change is good for people on both a personal and professional level. I also believe that most people are capable of more than they realise, though few ever challenge themselves to find out.

To sum up, those who want to or need to reduce the levels of anxiety or risk in their lives can achieve that by following familiar routines **day in and day out**. However, I believe that change is an essential **catalyst** in improving not only your **self-worth**, but also your value as a professional.

(429 words)

- **Varying** (adj.) - different
- **To embrace** (v.) - to accept happily
- **A force for good**(n.) - a positive influence
  
- **Unpredictable** (adj.) - impossible to guess
- **Costly errors**(n.) - big mistakes
- **In advance** (adv.) - ahead of time
- **Anxiety** (n.) - fear or stress
- **Potential** (adj.) - possible
- **To stick** (v.) - to follow / to stay
- **Promotional** (adj.) - for advertising
  
- **Risky** (adj.) - dangerous
- **Prevailing** (n.) - winning / strongest
- **Skill sets** (n.) - abilities
- **Valuable** (adj.) - important / useful
- **Disruptive** (adj.) - disturbing
- **Stepping outside your comfort zone** - doing something new and unfamiliar to you
- **Grow as a person** - become more mature and gain experience
- **Capable** (adj.) - able/competent
- **Circumstances** (n.) - situations
- **Realisation** (n.) - new understanding
- **Self-esteem** (n.) - belief and respect for yourself
  
- **Day in and day out** - every day
- **Catalyst** (n.) - motivation
- **Self-worth** (n.) - belief or respect for yourself