

## Verb patterns

**Tip**

Verbs in English fit together in different ways. It is very important to learn how they work to improve the accuracy of your writing for the exam.

**1 Think about / Discuss these questions.**

- Have you or your friends/family lived overseas for a long period of time? What problems did you/they face? Have you/they adapted to the new culture? How?

**2 Read the text below about culture shock and match these headings (a–c) to the three stages (1–3).**

- a Trouble in paradise      b The road to recovery      c The honeymoon period

**3 Which stage are you or people you know going through at the moment?**

### A CULTURE SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM

Many people **would love** to leave their nine-to-five jobs behind and have a life-changing adventure overseas. They **imagine** lying under palm trees as the sun goes down. However, life overseas is not always easy, and many are not prepared for the shock of living in an alien culture.

**STAGE 1:** .....

At first, for those who actually **decide** to move abroad, life is an exciting adventure. With their new-found freedom, they **enjoy** exploring their new surroundings, and life seems like an extended holiday. They **don't mind** sampling the local cuisine and discovering other aspects of the local culture. They can even **afford** to practise their foreign-language skills without fear of making mistakes.

**STAGE 2:** .....

In many cases, when people **consider** moving to another country, they often **fail** to realize how different life overseas will be. As time goes by, they experience feelings of frustration when language and cultural misunderstandings become a daily headache. In this stage, many people **refuse** to accept the differences of their host country and some actually **avoid** spending time with local people in favour of mixing with others from their home country.

**STAGE 3:** .....

Gradually, over time, the visitor realizes they must accept the differences and not fight against them. This change in mentality **encourages** them to improve their language skills and slowly they **manage** to do the things we would do without thinking at home such as opening a bank account. This new-found confidence **enables** them to see a side of life which very few tourists are lucky enough to witness.

Culture shock is a real issue. The secret is to **stop** trying to change your host country; you will not succeed. If not, you **risk** losing your dream and having to return to the old life you wanted to leave behind.

**4 Look at the text again and focus on the verbs in red. Complete this table according to the pattern that follows each verb.**

verb + <i>-ing</i>	verb + <i>to</i> infinitive	verb + object + <i>to</i> infinitive
imagine lying	would love to leave	encourages them to improve

**5 Find and correct the mistakes with verb patterns in these extracts from the text.**

- 1 Many people would love leaving their nine-to-five jobs behind ...
- 2 They don't mind to sample the local cuisine ...
- 3 ... slowly they manage doing the things we would do without thinking at home ...

**6 Complete these sentences with the correct verb pattern and your own ideas.**

- 1 If I had the money, I would consider ...
- 2 I am planning ...
- 3 Studying English has enabled ...

## Model essay: Advantages and disadvantages

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*These days, more and more people are going to other countries for significant periods of time, either to find a job or to study. There are clearly many benefits to doing this, but people who live abroad can also face some difficulties.*

*Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living and working in a foreign country.*

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Skim the model essay below to find the main points, then complete this table about moving away.

advantages	examples	disadvantages	examples

Nowadays, taking a year out to live or study abroad is becoming increasingly popular. For many people, especially young adults, the chance to spend an extended period of time overseas is an attractive one. However, there are both pros and cons to deciding to do this. In this essay, I will discuss some of the reasons why moving abroad is so popular and some of the challenges to be overcome.

Let's begin by looking at the advantages of moving away. One of the main positives of heading overseas is that it broadens your horizons. What I mean by this is that you have the chance to meet people from different cultural backgrounds and learn to cope with foreign customs and food. This can make you more rounded as a person.

Secondly, moving abroad can lead to a better quality of life. Take British people for example. Thousands of people from the UK move to Spain and Australia every year. These countries have warmer climates and encourage a better work-life balance. In addition, by

living overseas, you can gain qualifications and language skills, which may improve promotion prospects on your return.

Turning to the other side of the argument, culture shock is a major problem. Many people who take a year out find it hard to cope with the language barrier, the food and general cultural differences. This often leads to homesickness and in some cases a sense of isolation.

Another issue is that it can be difficult to start a new life from scratch. In other words, when you move abroad, you have to make new friends and find your place in the community. This process takes time and can be especially challenging if there is also a language barrier to deal with.

All things considered, starting life in a foreign country is never easy. You need to weigh up the pros of the better lifestyle, weather and so on, and the cons of culture shock and language barrier. Personally, I believe the benefits in terms of personal growth eventually outweigh any negatives.

(344 words)