



## WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

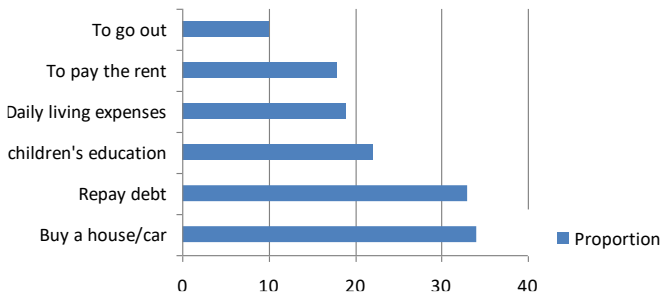
*The chart below shows the results of a survey about the reasons given by people who borrowed money in a European country in 2010.*

*Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.*

You should write at least 150 words.

**Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.**

### Reasons given by people who borrowed money



### Comments

Obviously, this is not a real question. I just wrote it as an exercise for students to practise answering questions in which you have to give reasons.

Although it looks simple, with only 6 figures to describe, this is actually a difficult question because specific structures are required to describe information about reasons for doing things. All of the following are wrong

- Nearly a half of students borrowed money ~~because the reason afford to go out~~
- ... ~~going out reason~~ accounted for
- [...] while ~~children's education was the main reason for~~ [...]



- Children's education ~~occupied a smaller proportion~~

### **Instructions / Advice**

Before you read my answer, do the following:

#### **Examine and understand the question**

- Study the question carefully
- Make sure you fully understand it before you start your answer  
Identify *the main trends, differences or stages* ie – what you'll include in the overview
- Decide what *the key features* are – ie what information and/or figures are you going to mention in your answer

#### **Decide on the organisation**

- What will you describe first?
- How many paragraphs will you write?
- What information will you give in each paragraph?
- What information will you group together – if the question has figures?

#### **Write and review**

If you want to be your own teacher – that's why you're here, right? – be strict with yourself.

- Write your answer in 20 minutes on a proper IELTS writing form - get one [here](#).
- Study your answer and do it again - take as long as you like and check your structures on the internet.
- This time you're doing your absolute best without time constraints.
- Compare your answer to mine.
- Memorise some of my structures - pay attention to the grammar and lexis.
- Add some of my sentences to Anki so that you'll remember them for ever - see [here](#).



- Rewrite my answer.
- Look at it again the next day.

**TA – Task Achievement**

The chart shows the reasons why people in a particular country borrowed money in 2010.

Overall, the most popular reason given was to buy a car or a house, while the second most popular was to pay off debt owed to other lenders.

Looking first at the most widely given reasons, around a third of people surveyed said they borrowed the money in order to buy a car or a house, while a similar proportion did so to be able to pay back debt. Meanwhile, just over a fifth of borrowers surveyed said that they needed the money to pay for their children's education.

Of the less popular reasons given, paying for basic living costs was cited by around 18% of people in the survey, and a similar number took out a loan to pay for their accommodation. Finally, around 10% of people asked said they needed the money to go out with their friends.

155 words

**Commented [TG1]:** All the relevant information is presented. No key features are ignored. There is no inaccurate, irrelevant, or inappropriate information

**Commented [TG2]:** Simple introduction. I changed the structure but it's not necessary to change every word

**Commented [TG3]:** I mentioned the two most important reasons. Many students want to mention the most important and the least. I think the key is the word important, and in this case, the two most popular reasons are the most important

**Commented [TG4]:** For a clear overview, mention at least 2 features. Don't hide it in the introduction – put it in a separate paragraph. Use the word *overall*

**Commented [TG5]:** I gave all the figures. In a simple question like this, do not ignore any figures

**C&C – Cohesion and coherence**

**Commented [TG6]:** Information is organised logically, which in this case is giving the largest figures, or the most important reasons, first..

The answer shows clear progression throughout. In other words – there is an introduction, an overview, and one or more paragraphs in a logical sequence.

C&C is shown here in bold

The chart shows the reasons why people in a particular country borrowed money in 2010.

**Overall**, the most popular reason given was to buy a car or a house, **while** the second most popular was to pay off debt owed to other lenders.

**Looking first at the most widely given reasons**, around a third of people surveyed said they borrowed the money **in order to** buy a car or a house, **while** a similar proportion **did so** to be able to pay back debt. **Meanwhile**, just over a fifth of borrowers surveyed said that they needed the money to pay for their children's education.

**Of the less popular reasons given**, paying for basic living costs was cited by around 18% of people in the survey, **and a similar number** took out a loan to pay for their accommodation. **Finally**, around 10% of people asked said they needed the money to go out with their friends.

**Commented [TG7]:** This is the most logical place for the overview – after the introduction. The introduction has the highest-level information, and the overview is the next highest. Also, this is now what I would call the orthodox way of organising an answer, which means that this is what the examiner expects to see.

**Commented [TG8]:** Clear signposting

**Commented [TG9]:** Referencing

**Commented [TG10]:** Clear signposting

**LR - Lexical resource**

The chart shows the reasons why people in a *particular* country borrowed money in 2010.

Overall, *the most popular reason given* was to buy a car or a house, while *the second most popular* was to pay off debt owed to other lenders.

Looking first *at the most widely given reasons*, around *a third of people surveyed* said they borrowed the money in order to buy a car or a house, while *a similar proportion* did so to be able to pay back debt. Meanwhile, *just over a fifth of borrowers surveyed* said that they needed the money to pay for their children's education.

Of the less popular reasons given, paying for *basic living costs* was cited by around 18% of people in the survey, and *a similar number* took out a loan to pay for *their accommodation*. Finally, around *10% of people asked* said they needed the money to go out with their friends.

**Commented [TG11]:** High band score lexical resource is shown by the words and phrases in *italics*

The examiner gives credit for words not given in the question. In other words, he will be impressed by *repaying debt*, but not by *repay debt*.

Less common lexical items, which you need for a band score 7, LR, are words that not everyone (ie non-native speaker) knows. It does not mean words that native speakers don't know

You should not have to use the dictionary to understand my answers.

**Commented [TG12]:** Always a useful *less common* word

**GRA – Grammatical range and accuracy**

**Commented [TG13]:** There is a variety of simple and complex sentences.

There are no errors.

Grammar that will impress the examiner is underlined.

The chart shows the reasons why people in a particular country borrowed money in 2010.

**Commented [TG14]:** Noun clause

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Looking first at the most widely given reasons, around a third of people surveyed said they borrowed the money in order to buy a car or a house, while a similar proportion did so to be able to pay back debt. Meanwhile, just over a fifth of borrowers surveyed said that they needed the money to pay for their children's education.

Of the less popular reasons given, paying for basic living costs was cited by around 18% of people in the survey, and a similar number took out a loan to pay for their accommodation. Finally, around 10% of people asked said they needed the money to go out with their friends.