

**WRITING TASK 1**

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You are unhappy about a plan to make your local airport bigger and increase the number of flights.

Write a letter to your local newspaper. In your letter,

- *explain where you live*
- *describe the **problems***
- *give **reasons** why you do not want this development*

Commented [TG1]: Note the plurals; you have to give more than one for both

Based on a real question

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear Sir/Madam

Commentary

This is a formal or semi-formal letter, so I'm going to avoid contractions and informal language.

The question refers to **a plan to make your local airport bigger and increase the number of flights**. You can interpret this more specifically, which is what I did by referring to the new runway. This is much better than using the vague phrase provided in the question – **make your local airport bigger**.

Plurals are used in the question. This means you need to give 2 or more problems and reasons, otherwise you'll get 5 for TA.

The difficulty in this question is in making the problems different to the reasons why it should not go ahead. This means you need 4 reasons to object to the expansion, which is asking a lot.



There are some other things to be careful about:

- You are not informing the newspaper of the proposals; they already know about them.
- You not asking for their help or trying to elicit support. You're asked only to **describe the problems** and to **give reasons why you do not want this development**.
- You're writing on your own behalf; not on behalf of a local protest organization

KEY **C&C bold**
 LR italics
 GRA underlined

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with regard to the new runway planned for Borrowash airport, and to explain why this development should not go ahead.

I am *a long term resident* of the Borrowash area, and my house is *directly under the flight path* of planes taking off from the *proposed runway*. **In fact**, I live just 300 yards from the end of it.

With regard to my personal situation, in view of the location of my house, I will be *directly affected by the noise and vibration* of planes *taking off*. **Not only** will I be subjected to the *regular, deafening noise* of jet engines, **but there will also be** a *serious risk of damage* to my property, **as well as** a risk to the *value of the property*.

There are two main reasons why the plans for the new runway should be abandoned. *Firstly, when the original airport was built*, local residents were given a promise that there would only ever be the one runway. **The second reason relates to local traffic**, as *the additional passengers travelling to and from* the airport will have to travel through *our village*, **which** is already *congested* with airport traffic.

Commented [TG2]: Clear purpose in which I mention 2 bullets. One would be the minimum

Commented [TG3]: ie *planes that are taking off*

Commented [TG4]: use pronouns to avoid unnecessary repetition

Commented [TG5]: signposting – let the examiner know that you're addressing bullet 1

Commented [TG6]: correct use of *not only [...] but also*. In fact, this sentence gives 3 problems

Commented [TG7]: In a GT letter, feel free to be creative – you can create your own reality

Commented [TG8]: The difficulty with this question is in giving different reasons for bullets 2 and 3



Sincerely,

Tony Grace

197 words

Commented [TG9]: Suitable closing formula