

# WORKING WITH ADVANCED BILINGUAL LEARNERS

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# **Sequential bilingual student**

“We came here when I was eight ... my mum doesn’t really speak English ... when we first came, my dad spoke the best English ... now I speak the best English”

*Year 7 Farsi speaker*

# Transitional bilingual student

“I was born in England but I spoke Punjabi until I went to nursery, then I started learning English. Now English is my strongest language, to be honest. My mum’s helping me with GCSE Punjabi.”

*Year 11 student*

## Family influences

“I speak English at home but my grandparents who live with us only speak Punjabi so they speak to me in Punjabi but I answer in English as I don’t know all the words. I’m learning Urdu as that’s my mum’s language.”

## **Emotion-related code-switching**

“My mum goes mental ... then she starts to shout in Urdu ... but she puts in some English words so I understand ... I’m going to be grounded.”

*Year 8 student*

# English as an additional language?

“English is my first language but when I go home everybody’s speaking Gujarati. My brother speaks Gujarati. The neighbours speak Gujarati. We always have Asian Network on. I don’t speak Gujarati ..... I understand it though.”

*Year 11 student*

# Limited language resources

“My fave things are reading, reading, reading, reading, reading, reading, more reading, reading, even more reading etc”

*Year 7 Diagnostic Writing Activity*

## History essay: 'Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?'

"The strong points in William's army were that they were motivated to think that they were fighting for god and they had a lot of horses that were trained to kick and head butt and bite soldiers and William had 30,000 to help him fight all of his team had armour except for his archers his arrows could kill 100 metres away if fired accurately. Williams's weak spots were that cavalry had no armour as well his archers the infantry had most of the good weapons and they had no chain mail. The good thing about Harold's army was that all team had helmets and all team had battle axes house carls were fully trained soldiers. The disadvantages were that they never had an cavalry the fyrd never had had hauberk the fyrd never had any good weapons they only had a little bit of archers and bows men the fyrd were less trained soldiers. The battle of Hastings looked like another victory for Harold because he had a very strong shield wall and the best position whilst William had a bad position the wall was very hard to get through it looked like William will loose but then he did a thing called feigned flight that was pretending to run away it was Williams last chance to win and it was getting dark their trick worked now they could get the English and they did some-one shot an arrow and it hit Harold in the eye so it was victory for the English no-one knows what happened to Harold's body there are allot of theories like it was thrown into the sea and that his wife gave it a real burial and that It wasn't found."

Year 7 student. First language: Urdu

## **History essay: ‘Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?’**

*“The reasons that the Normans won the Battle of Hastings were that they had better equipment, skillful and William was more tactile”*

*Year 7 Urdu speaker*

# English literature essay: The Listeners

“ ‘The Listeners.’ was a poem written by Walter De La Mare. The poem was about a man who was described as a traveller made a journey to a lonely house by the forest by horse. The man was then knocked on the moonlit door for three times before he left and shouted to the phantoms listeners on the other side. In my opinions, this poem were full of unsolved mysteries such as the facts that we don’t know who the traveller was and why he was there, also when the traveller talked to the phantoms, Walter De la Mare referred the people that the man was talking about as “them”, making it more mysterious for the readers (No names for any characters.) In additional, I think this is quite a scary poem, because the scene was set at night, as we know the most stories that set in the dark were horror stories. Also the house was by the forest, which we know that there were many vicious creatures in there such as werewolf; especially the time was in the full moon.”

Year 8 Cantonese first language

## English literature coursework: Great Expectations

*"In the beginning of the novel as Magwitch is in the marshes he finds Pip and tells him do get something for him which views him as a **scum** because he is a convict which escaped from jail ... Magwitch in the world of Victorian is seemed as a **scum** for being a convict ... when he kills his rival Compeyson he is sentenced to death but before he is killed by people he is killed by his illness. This makes Dickens try to make the audience feel sorry for scums."*

*Year 10 transitional bilingual student*

## English literature coursework: Wuthering Heights

*“Cathy gets very emotional as she starts flipping out everyone in her sights ... she has told Heathcliff to get lost ... When Catherine dies, everyone is gutted, but Heathcliff is not when he finds out from Nelly. ‘May she wake in torment! He cried ... He still loved her and yet he got shunned down by Catherine, which affected the rest of his life ... even though Catherine chose Edgar at the end of the day Catherine and Heathcliff still loved each other. In the story it shows the indestructible love of Catherine of Heathcliff. They have been through major setbacks ... but at the end of the day they loved each other just before Catherine died.”*

*Year 11 student of Gujarati language heritage*

## Persistent errors, ‘unteachable’ concepts

*“Death used to be a taboo in **the society**; whereas it is now widely discussed in the society. Moreover, the **arose** of the controversies of euthanasia reflects that the society has **a distinct views** on whether we have the right to end our own life. Medical technology **allow** us to have an ‘easy’ death. However, the society is not yet ready to accept the legalisation of ‘assisted suicide’.”*

*Year 13 Cantonese first language*

# Airlines cannot avoid their duties *The Observer 27 January 2008*

## Paragraph

Such expansion plans are controversial, particularly when considering the vexed issue of global warming. Britain has committed itself to making a 60 per cent cut in its carbon emissions by 2050 in order to meet its climate-change obligations. Continued, uninterrupted expansion of the aviation industry sits very uncomfortably with such carbon-cutting aspirations, hence the furore over the government's support for a new Heathrow runway. Green campaigners point out we simply cannot afford a massive aviation expansion, exemplified by a Heathrow third runway, if we seek to have coherent environmental and energy policies for the UK.

## Paragraph

The picture is blurred. What is therefore needed is a careful appraisal of the industry's finances to help untangle the issues. A key point is the fact that airlines pay no tax on aviation fuel and are currently excluded from international schemes for controlling carbon emissions. This state of affairs is unfair and unacceptable. We must have a level playing field for all industries that emit carbon. Fiscal and carbon taxes must be paid by airlines and, by inference, their passengers. Only then will it be possible to work out the true ecological price of air flight and estimate the value of new runways and terminals. Some schemes may still be viable; others may be exposed as liabilities. Either way, the public will at least be reassured they have learnt the true environmental cost of airport expansions.

## Paragraph

They have a point, though we should note that failure to improve our already over-stretched airports will also have economic consequences. Business people will simply avoid London and the UK while airlines may be tempted to move their international hubs to airports in other countries.

## Paragraph

Air travel was once the prerogative of the affluent. It was only the well-heeled who took to the skies. Such privilege has long since been swept aside - to the extent that plane journeys are now commonplace. Half the UK population flies at least once a year and a quarter flies twice or more. More to the point, passenger numbers continue to rise. By 2020, they will have doubled from present levels. Our airports will burst at their seams, which explains why aviation chiefs want so badly to build new terminals or runways at airports at Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Bristol, Stansted and Heathrow.

# The Introduction

*Air travel was once (1) the prerogative of the affluent. It was only the well-heeled who took to the skies. Such privilege has long since been swept aside - to the extent that plane journeys are now commonplace. Half the UK population (2) flies at least once a year and a quarter flies twice or more. More to the point, passenger numbers continue to rise. By 2020, they will have doubled from present levels. Our airports will burst (3) at their seams, which explains why aviation chiefs want so badly to build new terminals or runways at airports at Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Bristol, Stansted and Heathrow.*

- 1) *The writer starts with a look at the past, the background to the topic.*
- 2) *The writer informs the reader of the current situation and includes some facts and statistics*
- 3) *The writer points out a future problem*

# Synonyms and Synonymous Phrases

Air travel (1) was once the prerogative of the affluent. It was only the well-heeled who took to the skies (2). Such privilege has long since been swept aside - to the extent that plane journeys (3) are now commonplace. Half the UK population flies (4) at least once a year and a quarter flies twice or more. More to the point, passenger numbers continue to rise. By 2020, they will have doubled from present levels. Our airports will burst at their seams, which explains why aviation (5) chiefs want so badly to build new terminals or runways at airports at Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Bristol, Stansted and Heathrow.

1) The first two words focus the reader's attention on the topic immediately.

2) This expression means 'travelled by air'

3) 'Plane journeys' is synonymous with 'air travel'

4) To fly is to travel by air

5) Aviation is a more academic word and means 'the operation of aircraft'

# **Topic Sentences and Paragraph Construction**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Rheme</b>
The first part of the topic sentence refers back to the overall theme of the essay, back to information that has been given before.	The second part of the topic sentence introduces a new idea, or ideas, new information about the topic that hasn't been mentioned before. This becomes the focus of the paragraph.

The rest of the paragraph gives examples, evidence, quotation, analysis and explanation of the new idea so that this idea is developed before moving on to the next paragraph.

# Topic Sentences and Paragraph Construction ctd.

*Such expansion plans (1) are controversial (2), particularly when considering the vexed issue of global warming. Britain has committed itself to making a 60 per cent cut in its carbon emissions by 2050 in order to meet its climate-change obligations. Continued, uninterrupted expansion of the aviation industry sits very uncomfortably with such carbon-cutting aspirations, hence the furore over the government's support (3) for a new Heathrow runway. Green campaigners (4) point out we simply cannot afford a massive aviation expansion, exemplified by a Heathrow third runway, if we seek to have coherent environmental and energy policies for the UK.*

- 1) The 'expansion plans' mentioned here refer back to the wish to 'build new terminals or runways' that was introduced in the first paragraph.
- 2) That the plans are controversial is a new idea that hasn't been mentioned before.
- 3) The government is in favour of a new runway ...
- 4) ... but green campaigners are against. This connects back to the idea that the plans are controversial.

## **Topic Sentences and Paragraph Construction ctd.**

*Such expansion plans are controversial, particularly when considering the vexed issue of global warming (1). Britain has committed itself to making a 60 per cent cut in its carbon emissions by 2050 in order to meet its climate-change obligations. Continued, uninterrupted expansion of the aviation industry sits very uncomfortably with such carbon-cutting aspirations, hence the furore over the government's support for a new Heathrow runway. Green campaigners point out we simply cannot afford a massive aviation expansion, exemplified by a Heathrow third runway, if we seek to have coherent environmental and energy policies for the UK.*

1) This is another new idea, not previously mentioned; it is developed later in this paragraph, as can be seen from the underlined phrases...  
... for example, the need for carbon-cutting comes from global warming.

## More on Topic Sentences

*They have a point, though we should note that failure to improve our already over-stretched airports will also have economic consequences. Business people will simply avoid London and the UK while airlines may be tempted to move their international hubs to airports in other countries.*

# The Language of Opinion

*The picture is blurred. What is therefore needed is a careful appraisal of the industry's finances to help untangle the issues. A key point is the fact that airlines pay no tax on aviation fuel and are currently excluded from international schemes for controlling carbon emissions. This state of affairs is unfair and unacceptable. We must have a level playing field for all industries that emit carbon. Fiscal and carbon taxes must be paid by airlines and, by inference, their passengers. Only then will it be possible to work out the true ecological price of air flight and estimate the value of new runways and terminals. Some schemes may still be viable, others may be exposed as liabilities. Either way, the public will at least be reassured they have learnt the true environmental cost of airport expansions.*

# Semicolons

Next the students have to comment on the use of punctuation in the following sentence:

*“Some schemes may still be viable, others may be exposed as liabilities.”*

This could also lead on to a discussion of sentence grammar, clauses and linking words. In the original article, the author uses a comma. However, the semi-colon may be more appropriate.

According to Oxford Dictionaries:

“The main task of the semicolon is to mark a break that is stronger than a comma but not as final as a full stop. It’s used between two main clauses that balance each other and are too closely linked to be made into separate sentences.”

<http://oxforddictionaries.com/words/semicolon>

Further guidance on the use of the semicolon can be found online:

[http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar\\_tutorial/page\\_05.htm](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_05.htm)

# A Variety of Sentence Types

Next, the students are asked to comment on the following sentence:

*“Only then will it be possible to work out the true ecological price of air flight and estimate the value of new runways and terminals.”*

They explore the word order and the effects on the reader of beginning a sentence in this way. They may be able to suggest other words and phrases that lead to inversion and they can make up their own example sentences.

# Etymology

Aviation: the flying or operating of aircraft

Origin: from French, formed irregularly from Latin *avis* 'bird'

Viable: capable of living

Origin: French, from Middle French, from *vie* 'life', from Latin *vita*

Fiscal: relating to government revenue, especially taxes

Origin: from Latin *fiscus* 'rush basket, purse, treasury'

The students can also compare the origin of these words with others such as the verb 'to fly', which has an Old English root: '*fleogan*' and they may be able to comment on connections with modern German.

<http://oxforddictionaries.com/>

<http://www.etymonline.com/index.php>

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

# **Follow-up lessons**

- Teacher-led supported writing
- Planning
- Drafting
- Redrafting