🩹 IELTS WRITING FIRST AID KIT #5

Sentence Control

Long sentences don't impress the examiner if they are broken. Clear, complete sentences do.

📌 Quick Rule

every sentence	needs a subject and a verb: *Many people **cannot** afford...*
two sentences	join them with **and, but, so, because** – or use a full stop
a comma	cannot join two complete sentences on its own

✅ Before you finish, check:

- ☐ Does every sentence have a **subject** and a **verb**?
- ☐ Have I joined two complete sentences correctly?
- ☐ Have I used a full stop where a sentence has become too long?
- ☐ Can I understand every long sentence the first time I read it?

⚡ Quick Practice

Find and correct the sentence problem in each example.

1. Because many people cannot afford to buy a house.
2. Public transport is cheaper it can also reduce pollution.
3. Although working from home has several advantages. It can sometimes be isolating.
4. Many people drive to work, this causes serious traffic problems.
5. Governments should improve public transport because this would reduce traffic it could also lower pollution levels.

🩹 FIRST AID KIT #5 – ANSWERS

Sentence Control

✔️ Answers

1. Many people **rent** because they cannot afford to buy a house.
   A *because* clause is not a full sentence. Add a main clause, or remove *because*.

2. Public transport is cheaper**, and** it can also reduce pollution.
   Two complete sentences need a linking word or a full stop.

3. Although working from home has several advantages**,** it can sometimes be isolating.
   An *although* clause cannot stand alone – join it to the main clause.

4. Many people drive to work**. This** causes serious traffic problems.
   A comma alone cannot join two sentences. *..., which causes...* is also correct.

5. Governments should improve public transport because this would reduce traffic**.** **It** could also lower pollution levels.
   Too many ideas in one sentence – split it with a full stop.

My score: ____ / 5

🚑 Your 1-Minute Check

Look at your **longest** sentences first.

If you have to read a sentence twice to understand it, make it simpler. A clear sentence is better than a complicated sentence with errors.

🎯 **Want more practice?** Find full grammar, writing and reading lessons – many of them free – at **startielts.co.uk**.

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