

WRITING

Some people prefer living in the city and others like living in the country. Where would you prefer to live and why? Give specific reasons and examples to explain your choice.

Sample 1 (Note: errors are highlighted in yellow. When you pass your cursor over the yellow area, an explanation of the specific error appears.)

My city is a wonderful city. So I like living in my city. People usually ask “How wonderful is it”? I always answer to them a great answer. Are you ready? You’re just following me.¹

Comment [Error1]: Not a proper introduction – no argument is made and it does not answer the question that was asked

My city is a beautiful city. But it is not a very big place. It stands beside² wide sea and² long river.² There are about 1000 schools, shops, hotels, and a very big park in the city. It also have³ a small park in different place.

Comment [Error2]: Missing articles

Comment [Error3]: Subject/verb agreement

Let me introduce to two time about my city⁴. Many years ago.⁵ My city was a so-so city. It was old, dirty, and dark. It didn’t have big and clean house⁶. It didn’t have wide and clean roads. It didn’t have shop, hotel and park⁷. The weather was very wet and bad. People didn’t like walk⁸ on the street. Because it was very narrow and dirty, people didn’t have anything to be them enjoy their life⁹. They didn’t know how to spare free¹⁰ time to¹¹ themselves.

Comment [Error4]: Unclear sentence

Comment [Error5]: Sentence fragment

Comment [Error6]: Singular/plural

Comment [Error7]: Singular/plural

Comment [Error8]: Verb form

Comment [Error9]: Expression

Nowadays.¹² Anything¹³ has changed. There are many new things in the city. There are many new, big and clean houses and buildings in the city. There are many machines—buses, trains, cars, trucks, ships and planes. The buses and cars are busy on the road. The ships are busy on the sea and in the river. The planes are very good, they can fly in the sky. They are easy come and go¹⁴. Oh, I forget very important thing¹⁵—mail. Now, people can send email to friends. There¹⁶ are very a fast way to know each other’s news. People have many kinds of hobbies now. They¹⁷ can introduce us to friendship, relaxation, knowledge, and enjoyable¹⁸. I was very happy and luckily¹⁹ living in my city.

Comment [Error10]: Word order

Comment [Error11]: Preposition

Comment [Error12]: Sentence fragment

Comment [Error13]: Word choice

Comment [Error14]: Expression

Comment [Error15]: Essay structure – not a proper transition

Comment [Error16]: Wrong word

Comment [Error17]: Referent

Comment [Error18]: Word form

Comment [Error19]: Word form

So that’s my city, do you like or don’t you like e²⁰? I hope you’ll like my city. If you think it is interesting, I’ll introduce more to you. I am waiting for you. Good luck, see you then.²¹

Comment [Error20]: Missing subject

Comment [Error21]: Essay structure – informal, no conclusion

Sample 2

First of all I can say I prefer to live in the country than the city because I like to socialize with different people from different cultures but some people prefer to live in the city because they want to run a business. Compare the city and country²² you will see both of them have disadvantages and advantages.

Comment [Error22]: Missing conjunction

In contrast²³ you can have more facility²⁴ in the country than the city and the country is more polluted than city because of their factories and as you know country has many people living in it.²⁵ You can find the people who are very friendly in the country but it depends on you. The city has friendlier people who are very intimate with each other. On the other hand, the country has a variety of fun. The government must entertain many turissts²⁶ very year. Tourists are the best incoming²⁷ r a country and they must entertain them.

Comment [Error23]: Not a proper transition

Comment [Error24]: Wrong word choice

Comment [Error25]: Has misunderstood the question – using wrong definition of the word “country”

Comment [Error26]: Spelling error

Comment [Error27]: Word form

In addition the university of the country is better quality than the city and this is because their degree is authoritative therefore countless students pursue their education in the country from different cultures and countries²⁸ nd also they can transfer their degree to their own university too because their degrees are accepted all around the world and also it can be another advantage for country.²⁹

Comment [Error28]: Sentence structure

Comment [Error29]: Run-on sentence

In the end, the country is supposed to be better but it depends on the goals of people and what they want from their life. For example, the people who want to continue their education I think the country is better for them and for people who want to run a business such as a farm or other thing, in my opinion the city is better for them because the city isn't polluted so the farmer can do better with their farming³⁰

Comment [Error30]: Misunderstood the topic

Reading

A new Canadian study links punitive parenting techniques to aggressive children, suggesting changing discipline methods could reduce children's aggression. Children whose parents use physical forms of punishment or shouting are much more likely to show aggressive behaviour, the study found. However, if parents shift to a less strict form of disciplining, such as time outs or discussions about behaviour, children quickly become no more aggressive than other kids.

The findings are contained in a Statistics Canada study that tracked 2,000 children and interviewed their parents on behaviour and emotion when the children were two to three years old and again when they were between eight and nine. The study gives statistical backing for what child development experts have been insisting for years- strict parental disciplinary methods only teach children to be aggressive. "There is absolutely no doubt that punitive parenting- hitting and yelling- simply does not enhance kids' behaviour. It does not yield positive outcomes," said Joan Durrant, who heads the department of family and social services at the University of Manitoba. She says the study highlights the needs for greater emphasis on parenting programs. She feels that as a society, we take TV violence very seriously, and work hard on minimizing children's exposure to violence. We have to work on lessening their exposure to other forms of violence in the same way.

To measure aggressive behaviour in children, researchers tallied up the score of how often children demonstrated an aggressive reaction, such as getting into fights, bullying or being bullied, or being mean to other children. The study found that two-to-three-year-olds raised in a more punitive style scored 39% higher on the scale of aggressive behaviours. The difference was even more significant as the children grew older, with the eight-and-nine-year-olds raised in punitive homes scoring 83% higher on the aggressive behaviour scale. In contrast, children raised by parents using non-punitive methods, were much less likely, at both ages, to show aggressive behaviour.

What the research also showed, however, was that these behaviour patterns were not fixed and did not necessarily persist throughout childhood. When parenting styles that had been punitive at an early age shifted to a less harsh style, those children scored much lower when older on the aggressive rating scale. In fact, children in these homes where a shift in parenting tactics occurred scored just as low in aggression as those children who had been raised in less punitive homes all along. These results suggest that an early disadvantage in the family environment does not necessarily imply poor outcomes later. What happens is that parents often shift their tactics as their children get older because a teacher or a daycare worker comments on the child's aggressiveness, or because they are exposed to a broader range of discipline tactics through playgroups. Parents often become frustrated because heavy-handed tactics are not yielding results. In many cases, parents start out disciplining the only way they know and eventually expand their repertoire of disciplinary responses.

National Post, Oct.24, 2004

Sample 1

Children's education is very important. The parents and the teachers always do hard work. They want the children to do their best. They also teach them the best. When children was³¹ young they had³² to learn a lot of things from their parents or others. The government spend³³ a lot of time and money on children's education. They said children are "flowers in motherland"³⁴. So, they want to show them the best.³⁵

Comment [Error31]: Verb tense

Comment [Error32]: Verb tense

Comment [Error33]: Subject/verb agreement

Comment [Error34]: Does not appear in the article

Comment [Error35]: The summary does not talk about the article at all. There is no indication that the article was understood.

I agree with it. When I was young, my parent taught me things about the world. For example, my hobby is sports. So, my parents taught me sports and I can play them and remember them. That was great. After I was grew up, I knew more things than other children.³⁶

Comment [Error36]: Opinion is not based on the article and does not discuss any of the article's ideas

Sample 2

This article is about the effects of parents' behaviour on children. Children in different ages and also different kind of families³⁷. This text shows that children with the eight-and-nine-year-olds have the higher score than younger children³⁸. In contrast, children raised by parents using non-punitive methods, were much less likely, at both ages, to show aggressive behaviour³⁹. This is what the new study says. Children show their family style with their aggressive reaction.⁴⁰

Comment [Error37]: Sentence fragment

Comment [Error38]: Expression - unclear meaning

Comment [Error39]: Taken directly from the text

Comment [Error40]: Weak summary – does not discuss the main ideas of the article

I agree with the article. Hitting and yelling does not help and the study agrees. Children should be taught right and wrong by their parents. The study is right.⁴¹

Comment [Error41]: Opinion is too short and does not give any supporting reasons