

OXFORD

# Oxford Discover Futures



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Workbook

6



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e-book interactive features

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# How does language shape our world?

## 1 Look at the pictures on page 5 and answer the questions.

1 What do you think the emoji message says?

2 What is the woman's body gesture called?  
What does it mean?



### Reading strategy

#### Dealing with long paragraphs

Long paragraphs can be harder to understand than short ones. To help you, follow these steps:

- Read the first and last sentences closely, looking for clues about purpose and content.
- Break up the paragraph into sections, grouping sentences by topic.
- Think about the relationship between the sections.
- Summarize the paragraph in one sentence.

## 2 Study the reading strategy. Read the article and match paragraphs 2–4 with topics a–f.

- a emojis are not universal .....
- b function of emojis within text messages .....
- c emojis can have serious purposes .....
- d how to create a new emoji .....
- e changes and trends in emoji use .....
- f how phones promote emoji use .....

## 3 Read the article again and choose the correct answers.

- 1 According to the linguists, most emojis ...
  - a add information that cannot be conveyed by words
  - b give positive information
  - c replace facial expressions
  - d mean "I'm kidding"
- 2 Emojis should not be used in a business context because ...
  - a it is not guaranteed that all devices will show them as you intended
  - b they convey too much emotion for such a formal environment
  - c older customers may not understand them
  - d their meanings are not precise enough

3 In the third paragraph the writer compares ...

- a how different nationalities use emojis
- b trends in language use with trends in emoji use
- c how young people use the laughing-crying emoji
- d emojis used for formal and informal conversations

4 According to the writer, recent new emojis ...

- a may not work; it depends where you live
- b have tended to focus on food and animals from around the world
- c are more representative of the real world
- d are too open to misinterpretation

5 Because emojis are controlled by the Unicode Consortium, ...

- a anyone can design a new emoji for their phone
- b all new emoji designs are accepted
- c they can ensure new emojis look the same on different phones.
- d it only takes two months to review proposed new emojis

6 We can infer from the closing sentences that the writer ...

- a believes emojis are not essential to our lives today
- b expects emoji use to change in the future
- c thinks that emojis are an easy way to communicate
- d doesn't believe emojis will be around for much longer

## 4 Answer the questions. Refer back to the article.

1 If you could introduce a new emoji to the world, what would it be and why?

.....

2 Which emojis do you use most often? Who do you send them to?

.....

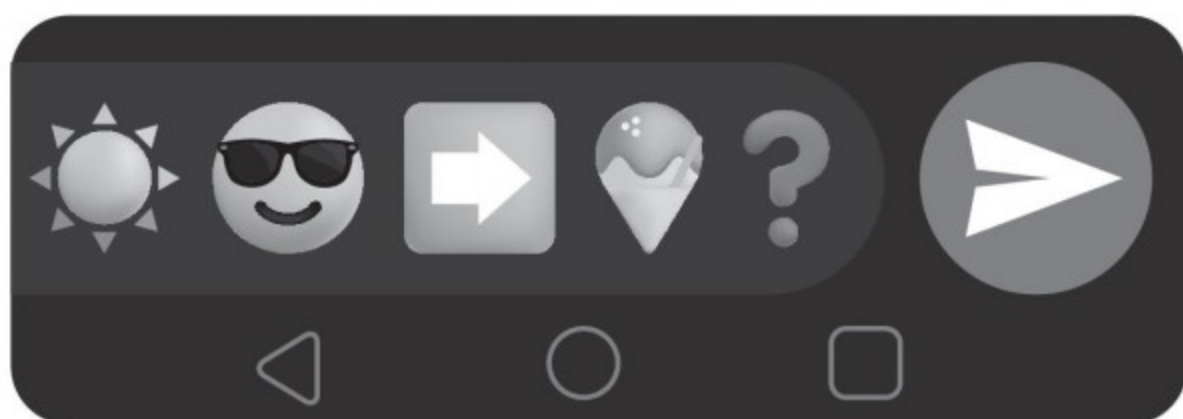
3 How do you think emojis will have changed by 2050?

.....

# EMOJIS

Emojis may be simple images, but how they are created and used is far from simple.

- 1 Since they appeared on our phones in 1997, many people have been concerned that using emojis will cause a decline in people's grasp of language. While there's no evidence to suggest this is true, it is clear that they've had a profound impact on the way we communicate today. But what does this mean for their place in our world?



- 2 Emojis these days are mostly used in one of two ways; to replace common words and phrases with images, or as a way of showing the emotions behind the words we say. Firstly, modern mobile phone companies use algorithms to actively promote emoji use instead of words we use regularly. For example, the more frequently we type the word "rabbit" into our text messages, the more readily the software will suggest the rabbit emoji as a shortcut. Pretty soon, it only takes a few seconds to send chains of balloons, gifts and – inevitably – cake to wish someone a happy birthday using no letters at all. In terms of acting as a substitute for our emotions, many linguists point out that most emojis are more frequently used as a digital replacement for physical body language and tone of voice. Instead of shrugging our shoulders, or giving a half laugh that means "I'm kidding!", we include an emoji.

- 3 However, it is clear that, even though all phones have the same bank of emojis at their disposal, they definitely do not constitute a universal language. Surveys frequently show that emojis are used in different ways by different nationalities, cultures, age groups, etc. They are still considered an informal mode of speech, making their use frowned upon within a formal or business context, but is this because they can so easily be misinterpreted? The meanings can vary so much that some people now work as professional emoji translators in businesses, news agencies, and legal settings. But on top of this, it is also important to note that these differences in use are constantly changing. In the same way that languages experience trends over time, and different generations develop their own vocabulary, adaptation is happening with emojis, too. In 2020, an article reported that using the laughing-crying emoji, which in 2015 was named as Oxford Dictionaries' word of the year, to indicate something was really funny is now considered outdated – younger people instead preferring to use the skull emoji to indicate that something is really funny. And it is safe to assume that at some point this too will be displaced by new trends.
- 4 If the emojis we use say as much about our world as the actual words we use, how on earth do phone companies reflect such a fast-changing reality? Fortunately, new emojis are being designed and approved every year and the range of emojis has expanded to cover a broader view of the human experience. To make sure that emojis appear correctly on phones and devices made by different companies, the world's emojis are controlled by the Unicode Consortium in California. The process for submission is open to anyone and the review of proposed new emojis takes almost two years, with only around 50 per year making it through the full process. In 2018, for example, we finally gained an emoji for the deadliest creature on the planet: the mosquito. Now approved, this new addition is being used in countless conversations about malaria, promoting health care and saving lives.



- 5 So, it seems clear that emojis have become deeply embedded in our cultural and social lives, and that they are a complex, nuanced method of communication. All the evidence suggests that they are here to stay, but who's to say how their use will evolve next as the world changes around us?





## Language

### 1 Complete the text with the words below.

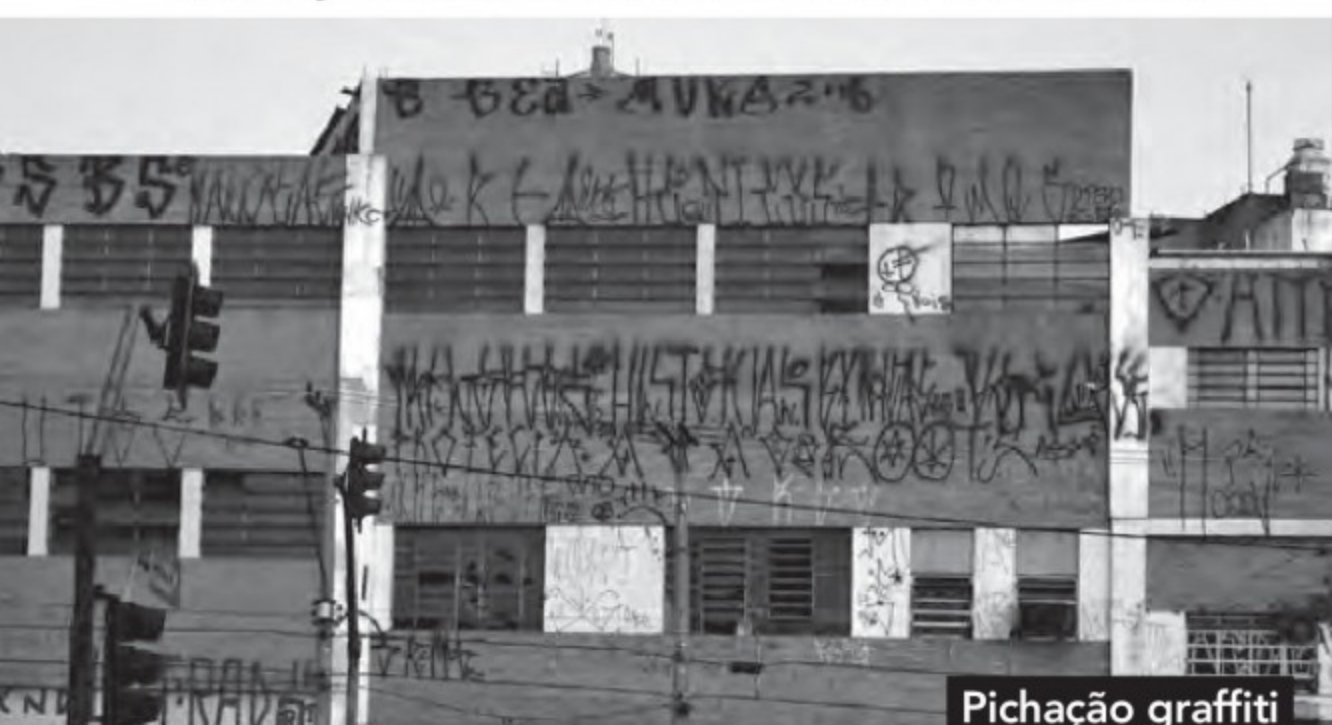
coin a word   colloquial expression  
equivalent   express concepts   jargon   literal

Examples of written graffiti can be seen scratched into the walls of Ancient Rome. Indeed, the <sup>1</sup> meaning of graffiti is "scratches." However, graffiti as an art form only really evolved in the 1980s. Graffiti – or street art – quickly developed its own <sup>2</sup>. Young people expressed themselves with spray cans on the modern urban landscape, but also in language. Imagine trying to <sup>3</sup> for every element of a new hobby. Here are just a few examples.

A "king" is a respected street artist. A "landmark" is a street painting that survives for more than 5 years. Within just a few years, a rich and complex terminology evolved to <sup>4</sup> that are unique to working both in secrecy and in urban environments. In order to sign their artwork without revealing their identity, graffiti artists used fake names or "tags," a trend that continues today.

On the other hand, some terms are borrowed from the art world. The word "piece" to describe a graffiti artwork is a shortening of "masterpiece." And paintings in "heaven spots" (such as the tops of bridges and roofs) have their <sup>5</sup> heritage in the beautifully painted ceilings found in ancient buildings around the world.

Some of the most imaginative graffiti terms are geographically specific. Thus, a "married couple" is a New York term for a painting that is drawn across connected subway cars. Similarly, "pichação" is a graffiti style unique to urban Brazil. And although, to use a <sup>6</sup>, pichação is "no oil painting," its spirit of written rebellion links back directly to those scratches on the walls of Rome.



Pichação graffiti

### 2 Choose the correct word to complete the dialogues.

- A Did you know that Lewis Carroll **coined** / **expressed** the word "chortle."

B Sure. It's a combination of "chuckle" and "snort."
- A What is "tapas" exactly?

B Small plates of delicious Spanish food. The **jargon** / **literal** meaning is "lids" because it was originally served in small dishes placed on top of drinks glasses.
- A Do you know any words from interesting languages?

B I can **express concepts** / **get by** in American Sign Language, but I'm not confident.
- A It's French and English that are the **mother tongues** / **official languages** of the Olympics, right?

B That's right. And they use the host country's language, too.
- A I want to say *capoeira*. What's the **equivalent** / **anglophone** word in English?

B It's the same word. *Capoeira*!

## Prepositional phrases

### 3 Complete the sentences with *at*, *by*, or *in*.

- The way we retain information, and **extension** the reliability of our memories, is a serious matter.
- its most basic**, our justice system – with its reliance on witness statements – is flawed if we cannot rely on people's memories.
- Research with amnesia patients gave results which were **odds with** the prevailing theory that short-term memories will become long-term memories.
- Although she could no longer remember the names of her family members, she could still make pasta **hand** and knew the words to many songs.
- Without an effort to retain information, our short-term memory disregards data **a matter of** seconds.
- response** to Hale's work, researchers now talk about several different routes into the long-term memory.
- Most scientists believe that, **time**, our understanding of how memory works will evolve still further.

- 4 Complete the text with the prepositional phrases in bold from exercise 3.

## DUAL CODING IN EDUCATION

The idea behind dual coding is not groundbreaking. <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, it means using a combination of words and pictures to enhance learning.

However, there is fresh interest in dual coding <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to some recent research. According to educational psychologists, dual coding is better for the memory than just writing information down or looking at an existing drawing.

In order to be effective, students need to create all the visual elements <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Although some students may worry about their drawing skills, <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and with a little practice, the benefits soon become clear.

Dual coding can be completed as a group task at the end of a class. It is possible to summarize even complex information <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ minutes. It's true that the results can look messy, which may seem to be <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ teachers' usual requests for neat handwriting. However, in this case it is the accuracy of the facts, and <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ students' engagement with the material, which gives the best results. By chance, dual coding is also a lot of fun!

## Cleft sentences for emphasis

- 5 Complete the contradictions with one word.

- 1 A I'll send you an article about Turing's Chinese Room argument.  
B Thanks. Actually, \_\_\_\_\_ was John Searle who created the Chinese Room argument.
- 2 A Do you understand what the Turing test is?  
B Yes. \_\_\_\_\_ I don't understand is the fear of a robot passing it.
- 3 A The computer made me do it!  
B I think you'll find it was a hacker \_\_\_\_\_ made you do it.
- 4 A You lived in Italy for a while, didn't you?  
B No, it \_\_\_\_\_ in Switzerland where I learned to speak Italian.
- 5 A Did you Google it?  
B No, what I \_\_\_\_\_ was go and speak to a pharmacist.

- 6 Remove one unnecessary word from each of the underlined cleft sentences in the conversation.

Kyle So ... how's the new job going?

Rio Yeah good, thanks. <sup>1</sup> The thing which I was worried about beforehand was my lack of experience. But actually, so far everything's been fine. It's just ...

Kyle What?

Rio <sup>2</sup> Well, it's not the job, it's the commute that I'm finding problematic. I have to catch a train at 6:10 a.m. and I'm already exhausted after one week. <sup>3</sup> The commuters who I see on the platform every day look like ghosts. What if I become one of them?

Kyle You'll be OK, I promise.

Rio I guess so. <sup>4</sup> I mean, the reason why I took the job was the opportunity to learn fast. I don't think I'll stay there for long.

Kyle Don't make that decision yet. <sup>5</sup> You remember the time when I took that summer job at Barton's Furniture Warehouse?

Rio And you're still working there now!

Kyle Exactly.

- 7 Rewrite each sentence as a cleft sentence. Use the first words provided.

- 1 I'll miss meeting you at cafes to practice our English.  
The thing \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 There are many loan words from Hindi in English, which shouldn't surprise you.  
What \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 India has the second-highest number of English speakers in the world.  
The place \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 The country with the most English speakers is the United States of America.  
It's \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 I have a slight Welsh accent, which I've picked up from my roommate Rhonda.  
The person \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 My English speaking really improved after I took night classes at Latimer College.  
It was \_\_\_\_\_



- 8 Read the article. Rewrite each underlined cleft sentence in a simpler form. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

# My digital detox

Warren Hurst tries Silicon Valley's latest trend

According to some psychologists, phone addiction is a real and increasing problem. <sup>0</sup>What is particularly alarming is the scientific research about kids. Studies appear to show that kids who spend hours on social media have low levels of concentration and empathy, and poor sleep patterns. <sup>1</sup>The time when your body needs to wind down is the two hours before going to sleep. And yet, this is just the time when many people tend to watch TV and scroll through social media. Can a so-called "digital detox" offer the solution?

<sup>2</sup>The place where digital detoxing has its roots is, unsurprisingly, California. Last month I embarked on a five-day digital detox: outside of work hours I had no phone, no TV, no laptop.

<sup>3</sup>The thing I found most difficult was having nothing to do with my hands. I fidgeted a lot! I went to the gym more, too. <sup>4</sup>But what I gained was a new perspective on my life. I now know that my relationship with technology was imbalanced and I am making long-term changes to resolve that.

- 0 *The scientific research about kids is particularly alarming.*
- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....

## Independent learning

- 9 Match the statements with items a–f. There is one item that you don't need.
- Each learner will have an individual set of these depending on their circumstances. ....
  - This means learners surround themselves with the language they wish to learn. ....
  - These must be established in order to assess progress towards goals. ....
  - This technique allows students to mark each other's work. ....

- 5 Describes those who improve their own outcomes by working independently. ....
- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| a immersion environment | c success criteria |
| b autonomous learners   | d learning goals   |
|                         | e peer assessment  |
|                         | f target language  |

- 10 Read the advertisement. The verbs in bold are in the wrong place. Write the correct verb, making any changes necessary.



Join us for a totally Dutch experience in wonderful Amsterdam. As the country's leading immersive language school, we are uniquely placed to help you <sup>1</sup>**give** ..... fluency fast. Choose from our one-weekend, one-week or longer-term courses.

Our tutors and local guides really <sup>2</sup>**listen to** ..... the work so you will <sup>3</sup>**build** ..... the benefits of Amsterdam's glorious museums, architecture, and cuisine.

Contact Residency Amsterdam today and <sup>4</sup>**put in** ..... your language learning a boost.

Can't get to us? <sup>5</sup>**Reap** ..... our daily podcasts, which range from "beginner" to "deskundige"!


- 11 **CONSOLIDATION** Answer the questions with your own ideas.

- Which areas of your life use jargon? Think of hobbies, work, learning, or technology. Is jargon useful?  
.....  
.....
- Go online and find out about English language immersion programs. How would you benefit from this experience?  
.....  
.....
- Imagine you have been to the immersive language school from Exercise 10. Write some cleft sentences about your positive and negative experiences.  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

## Listening

- 1 You are going to listen to Jason and Skye talking with their French tutor. Who would you expect to use sarcasm in this scenario?

- ☐ the students  
☐ the tutor

- 2  1.01 Listen to the conversation and answer the questions.

- 1 Which sections of the test did Jason and Skye struggle with?

- 2 In the test, Skye had to pretend to talk to a ... ?

- 3 What does Jason say is his worst habit as a language learner?

- 4 Which learning strategies does the tutor recommend for Skye?

- ☐ listen to the news  
☐ listen to podcasts  
☐ listen to French songs

- 5 Which learning strategies does the tutor recommend for Jason?


- ☐ watch vlogs  
☐ watch French films  
☐ watch children's TV in French

- 6 Which learning strategy do Skye and Jason decide to work on together?

### Listening strategy

#### Recognizing sarcasm

Sarcasm occurs when the speaker says the opposite of what they really believe to be true, often as a form of humor. Pay attention to the context and the speaker's tone of voice. Speaking slowly, or with heavy emphasis on certain words, may be signs of sarcasm.

- 3  1.01 Read the listening strategy then listen to the conversation again. Write J for Jason and S for Skye.

- 1 I struggle with formal English. ....  
 2 I find it hard to understand group conversations. ....  
 3 I wasn't surprised to get this grade. ....  
 4 I wish my French accent was more realistic. ....  
 5 I'm no good at drawing. ....








## Speaking

- 4 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 I know **from experience** / **by heart** / **by hand** that I learn faster when I'm in a group.  
 2 I'd say I'm pretty competent when it comes **from** / **to** / **at** written work.  
 3 I usually **force** / **effort** / **struggle** to contribute in class.  
 4 My accent could definitely **try on** / **go for** / **do with** some improvement.  
 5 I tell you what my worst **feature** / **character** / **habit** as a language learner is: it's laziness.

- 5 Imagine this chart reflects your current performance in English classes. Write an evaluative sentence for each item in the chart. Use the phrases from exercise 4.

1 listening tasks	
2 reading tasks	
3 grammar work	
4 speaking participation in class	
5 pronunciation	

- 1 .....  
 2 .....  
 3 .....  
 4 .....  
 5 .....

- 6 Choose one of the situations below. Then write a dialogue between two students. Use phrases from exercise 4.

- ☐ You have been asked to research, write, and present a topic in English class. Divide up the tasks according to your strengths.  
☐ You want to become more independent in your learning. What aspects of your language learning will you change? Why? How will you achieve this goal?

## An email to a newspaper

### A INTERNATIONAL MUSIC IS POPULAR, AS LONG AS IT'S FREE

Although musicians from India and Mexico are now among the most popular on YouTube, when it comes to actual downloads the usual mix of young, English-speaking pop stars are still in control of the music industry. Songs in other languages remain novelties and trendy subcultures, but they are far from breaking into the big time.

### B K-pop craze leads to Korean words being used in Algeria

As the trend for Korean K-pop music continues, a survey in Algeria has found that teenagers are using Korean words in their daily lives. Meanwhile, language course app Duolingo has around 6 million people learning Korean since it introduced the course due to popular demand.



### C THE INDEPENDENT INDIAN MUSICIANS STEPPING OUT FROM THE SHADOW OF BOLLYWOOD

YouTube is being credited for an explosion in independent music in India. Influenced by international genres as well as huge followings by the Indian community around the world, young artists are now able to hold their own against the might of the traditional Bollywood music machine.

### D U.S. music stars cash in on popularity of Spanish-language songs

Justin Bieber's *Despacito* with Luis Fonsi remains the most-watched video of all time. However, there has been a considerable negative response from some critics who accuse Bieber of "cultural appropriation" – cynically using aspects of Spanish-speaking culture for his own financial gain.

- 1 Read short articles A–D and the email below. Which article does the email respond to? What is its main argument?

✉

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to read your opinions on the rising popularity of Spanish-language music around the world. *Despacito* is very much the exception to an overwhelmingly positive trend in the music industry. Yes, Justin Bieber recognized a good business opportunity when he heard one (earning millions for Luis Fonsi in the process). And, no, his Spanish is not great. But it is ridiculous to cite this as an example of cultural appropriation. Must we imagine a world where no-one is able to sing songs in another language, or eat food from a culture that is not their own? Cultural appropriation is a grave issue for the minority groups who watch their customs and ideals become watered down for a wider, and largely ignorant, audience. The Spanish music scene is not such a minority.

Esme, San Juan

## LANGUAGE POINT Emotive language

- 2 Look at the highlighted language in Esme's email. Which word or phrase is used:

- 1 to describe something serious
- 2 to describe a situation that the author feels is out of control
- 3 to describe a reduction that the author considers undesirable
- 4 to say that something goes against a common trend

- 3 Rewrite these sentences to increase the emotion portrayed in each one.

- 1 Young people from my community are being ignored by politicians.
- 2 I believe that you need to change your opinion on this issue.
- 3 The message is simple: think first, Tweet later.

## Task An email to a newspaper

### Think and plan

- 4** Choose one of the news articles on page 10 to write about. Complete the chart with strong opinions based on your chosen article.

Article	
Strong positive responses	
Strong negative responses	

- 5** Select one response from exercise 4 as the starting point of your email. Remember, you will need to persuade someone with an opposite response to agree with you.
- 6** Study the Writing strategy. Then complete the plan for your email.



### Writing strategy

#### How to write persuasively

Stating your opinion rarely persuades someone to change their own. You need to use persuasive techniques to encourage acceptance of your point of view. For example:

- include facts and statistics to back up your argument
- use rhetorical questions
- paint a vivid picture of how things might be different
- use emotive language to stir your reader's emotions
- end in a memorable way



*State your position*

*Back up your argument with facts and statistics*

*Paint a picture, anticipating your readers' counterarguments*

*Emotive language ideas*

*Memorable ending*

### Write a first draft

- 7** Write a first draft of your email. Write about 250 words. Use your notes from exercise 4 and the plan above to help you.

### Review and edit

- 8** Read your first draft. How can you improve it? Use the checklist to help you.



### Writing checklist

#### Content

- Have you used convincing data to back up your argument? ☐
- Have you used a rhetorical question? Would it be more persuasive in a different part of the email? ☐
- Is your argument clear? ☐

#### Language

- Is your spelling correct? ☐
- Is your grammar correct? ☐
- Have you used emotive language to convince your readers? ☐

- 9** Now write a final draft of your email.