

**A. Opinion Paragraph**

Fact

Opinion

**1. Fact or opinion?**

Write F if the sentence is a fact and O if the sentence is an opinion.

- a) **Owls are birds that hunt at night.**
- b) **Engineering is the best career choice.**
- c) **Big cities are dangerous at night.**
- d) **I was born in New York City.**

Write 1 fact and 1 opinion sentence. Discuss them with your partner.

**2. Modal Verbs**

- +
  - ought to
  - could
  - must/have to
  - should
- - can't
  - doesn't have to
  - shouldn't

Read the paragraph below. Circle the most appropriate modal auxiliary in each sentence.

Dear Editor.

I agree with Bill Adams's opinion in his recent letter saying that people <sup>a</sup>. *should / don't have to* ride their bicycles into town. However, there is one problem with this idea. The roads in town are so narrow and full of cars that you <sup>b</sup>. *can't / ought to* ride safely on them. If people are going to ride bicycles into town, the city <sup>c</sup>. *could / must* make some cycle paths for people to use. Maybe the city <sup>d</sup>. *could / mustn't* charge a small additional tax on fuel to pay for the cycle paths. Motorists have created the problem, so motorists <sup>e</sup>. *could / should* pay for the solution. The city <sup>f</sup>. *ought to / doesn't have to* support cyclists like Bill Adams by making more cycle paths.

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1. Vocabulary

a)

Several years ago, some research was conducted at Manchester University into the amount of time that overseas postgraduate students spent listening to spoken English and speaking English. Sixty students co-operated by completing questionnaires.

It was found that an average of 22¾ hours per week were spent listening to English and only 6¼ hours speaking English to English people. An analysis of the time spent listening to English showed that lectures accounted for 5 hours and seminars 2 hours. An estimated 2½ hours were spent in serious discussion while 2 hours were devoted to everyday small-talk. Watching television accounted for 5¼ hours and listening to the radio 4½ hours. Going to the cinema or theatre only accounted for an average of ¾ hour per week.

The following sentences are based upon the information contained in the text above. Complete the sentences by choosing from the list of words and phrases below: use each word once only. Make sure that you keep the same meaning in the sentences as in the text.

Choose from these words: *biggest; as much . . . as; more . . . than (twice); least; most; not so many . . . as; as many . . . as; the same . . . as; greater . . . than.*

- a The students spent considerably \_\_\_\_\_ time listening to English \_\_\_\_\_ speaking it.
- b A \_\_\_\_\_ amount of time was spent in lectures \_\_\_\_\_ in seminars.
- c Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ hours were spent listening to the radio \_\_\_\_\_ watching television.

b)

X is ...

considerably	smaller, more efficient	than Y.
exactly	the same as	Y.
totally	different	from Y.

Add the following words to the table.

slightly – precisely – entirely - rather – hardly – practically – just – completely

Compare the countries in Table 5.

Table 5: Various Countries

Country	Belgium	Canada	Egypt	Ireland	Nepal
Information					
Population	10,140,000	29,972,000	64,100,000	3,589,000	21,953,000
Area: sq. km.	32,800	9,221,000	995,000	68,900	137,000
Density: per sq. km.	323	3	52	53	136
Forest area	21%	39%	0	4.5%	39%
Arable land (for crops)	23.5%	5%	2%	13.5%	17%
Agricultural population	2%	3%	39%	12%	91%
Main languages	Dutch/ Flemish, French	English, French	Arabic, French	English, Irish	Nepali, Maithili
Main religions	Christianity	Christianity	Islam	Christianity	Hinduism, Buddhism

Source: Zemach, D. E., Rumisek. *Academic Writing. From Paragraph to Essay*. L. A.: Macmillan Education, 2005.  
 Jordan, R. R. *Academic Writing Course*. Cambridge: CUP, 1997.

- d The \_\_\_\_\_ popular way of listening to English was by watching TV.
- e \_\_\_\_\_ number of hours was spent in everyday small-talk \_\_\_\_\_ in taking part in seminars.
- f The \_\_\_\_\_ popular way of listening to English was by going to the cinema.
- g \_\_\_\_\_ hours were spent in serious discussion \_\_\_\_\_ in watching television.
- h Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ time was spent in watching television \_\_\_\_\_ in speaking English.
- i \_\_\_\_\_ time was spent in serious discussion \_\_\_\_\_ in everyday small-talk.
- j The \_\_\_\_\_ surprise in the survey was the small number of hours spent speaking English to English people.