Exercise walk-through

4.2 Places Where People Live and Work

GAC Academic English

Method — Key knowledge: read tone without copying it

An idiom has a meaning that may differ from its individual words. “A stone’s throw away” means nearby; it does not give a measured distance. A positive review may still describe a limitation. Words such as “although” connect contrasting ideas, while “because” introduces a reason. Do not treat every connector as interchangeable.

A **stance** is a writer’s position towards a subject. To report that position fairly, separate the writer’s experience from evidence about all users. Resolve “it”, “they” and “this” by reading the nearest sensible noun or idea, not simply the nearest word.

Method — Source A: student review

When I first moved to Brook Court, the shared workroom seemed a lifesaver. It is a stone's throw from my flat, so I no longer carry my books across town. Although the room is small, its wide windows make it feel open. The long table is useful for group planning, but conversations sometimes disturb people who want to read quietly. Last week, two groups arrived for the same slot because the booking sheet had not been updated. They solved the problem by sharing the table, though this would not work for a quiet interview. I would recommend the room for short group meetings, provided the booking system improves.

Method — Source B: manager's note

Twelve current users answered a voluntary questionnaire. Eight wanted separate quiet and discussion times. Three asked for more sockets. One asked for longer opening hours. The manager has not collected views from residents who do not use the room. A paper booking sheet remains beside the door; no online system has yet been approved.

Method — Worked example: replace an impression with a bounded report

Known: a reviewer describes convenient access; twelve current users provide limited feedback. These are different evidence sources.
Informal: “The room is a lifesaver and everybody wants quiet slots.” Revised: “The reviewer values the room’s convenient location. Eight of twelve responding current users requested separate quiet and discussion times.” The revision keeps the positive meaning but removes the unsupported universal claim. It does not invent a precise walking distance.

Method — Worked example: replace an impression with a bounded report

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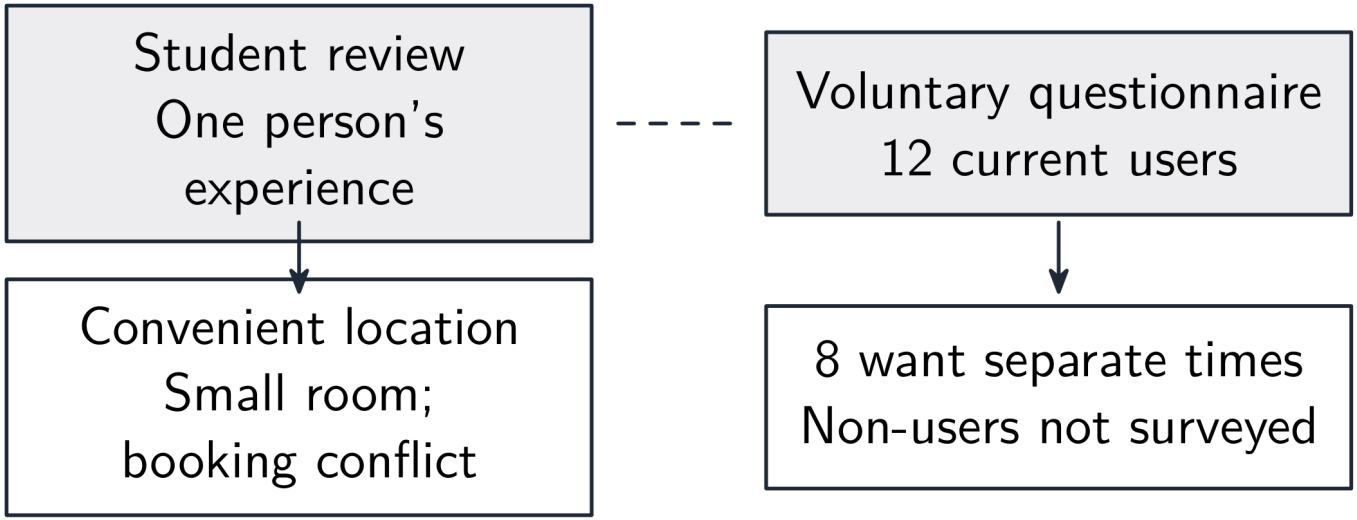

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 Explain “a stone’s throw from my flat” in this context. State ONE detail that the phrase does not establish. [2]

2.2 Identify what “They” and “this” refer to in the final part of Source A. [2]

2.3 Explain the relationship expressed by “Although the room is small, its wide windows make it feel open.” Rewrite the sentence using “but” without changing its meaning. [3]

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 Explain “a stone’s throw from my flat” in this context. State ONE detail that the phrase does not establish. [2]

2.1 Very close or nearby; the phrase gives no exact distance or travel time. It does not describe actual stone throwing.

2.2 Identify what “They” and “this” refer to in the final part of Source A. [2]

2.2 “They” means the two groups; “this” means solving the double booking by sharing the table. Accept clear paraphrases.

2.3 Explain the relationship expressed by “Although the room is small, its wide windows make it feel open.” Rewrite the sentence using “but” without changing its meaning. [3]

2.3 A contrast between small size and an open feeling. “The room is small, but its wide windows make it feel open” preserves both ideas and the contrast (2 × B1). Do not accept “because”, which changes the relationship.

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 Give the reviewer's recommendation and ONE condition attached to it. Explain why "the reviewer recommends the room for every activity" misrepresents the review. [3]

3.1 Revise this statement into 60–80 words of neutral reporting: "Brook Court is perfect. Everyone loves its huge room, and the new website has solved all booking problems." Use BOTH sources. Include at least two corrections and one limit of the questionnaire. [6]

Exercises 2.4·3.1

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2.4 Suitable for short group meetings, provided booking improves. A quiet interview is specifically a case where table sharing would not work; the recommendation is conditional, not universal.

3.1 Revise this statement into 60–80 words of neutral reporting: "Brook Court is perfect. Everyone loves its huge room, and the new website has solved all booking problems." Use BOTH sources. Include at least two corrections and one limit of the questionnaire. [6]

3.1 One point each (6 × B1): small rather than huge; positive opinion attributed to reviewer; booking conflict described; no online system approved; twelve voluntary current-user respondents rather than everyone; coherent neutral wording. Sample: "A student reviewer finds Brook Court convenient and recommends its small workroom for short group meetings if booking improves. Two groups recently shared the table after a booking conflict, an arrangement unsuitable for a quiet interview. No online booking system has been approved. Eight of twelve voluntary current-user respondents wanted separate quiet and discussion times, but residents who do not use the room were not surveyed."

Exercise 3.2

3.2 Write a 100–130 word recommendation to the manager about quiet and discussion times. Use the questionnaire figures, acknowledge who was not surveyed, explain a possible benefit and propose how to review the change. [8]

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3.2 One point each (8 × B1): clear recommendation; eight of twelve accurately reported; voluntary/current-user scope; non-users missing; explanation of quieter reading; recognition that discussion access must remain; a concrete review method; coherent, readable English. Different reasonable recommendations qualify. Sample: “I recommend a short trial of separate quiet and discussion times. Eight of the twelve current users who answered the voluntary questionnaire requested this change. Quiet periods could reduce interruptions for readers, while discussion periods would still allow groups to plan together. However, the questionnaire does not show what residents who avoid the room need, so it should not be treated as the view of every resident. Before the trial, invite those residents to comment as well. Publish a clear timetable, keep a record of booking conflicts and ask users whether the arrangement helps. Review these records after one month before deciding whether the timetable should continue.”