

Writing an article

IGCSE English

What an article is for



A newsstand: every one of these is competing for the same reader, which is why an article has to open with a hook

An **article** 文章 is written for a magazine, a newspaper, or a website. Many people read it.

Purpose

- An article **informs** 告知 or **entertains** 娱乐 a general reader.
- You usually give your own view on a topic, with reasons.

Engage the reader

- You must **engage** 吸引 the reader — make them want to keep reading.
- A good **title** 标题 and a strong first line catch their **interest** 兴趣.
- Ask the reader a question, or start with a surprising fact.

ask a question

“Should every teen
play a sport?”

the reader wants the answer

surprise with a fact

“Most teens sit for
nine hours a day.”

the reader thinks “really?”

speak to the reader

“You know that
Monday feeling ...”

the reader feels included

Three ways to catch the reader’s interest in your first lines



A newspaper front page: articles hook the reader, then inform and entertain with a clear angle

Writing a lively article

An article should sound interesting, not flat.

Should every teen play a sport?

Imagine scoring the winning goal ...

you _____

So why not give it a try?

- a **title** that catches interest: a question or a surprising fact
- a strong first line **hooks** the reader
- middle: one idea per paragraph, with your **view** and reasons
- **speak to the reader directly** with “you”
- an ending that leaves the reader **thinking**

The shape of a lively article: hook the reader, keep them, leave them thinking

Structure

- Begin with an **introduction** 引言 that names the topic.
- Develop your points in the middle, one idea in each paragraph.
- End with a short **conclusion** 结论 that leaves the reader thinking.

Lively language

- Use **varied** 多样的 words and sentence lengths to keep the energy up.
- You can speak to the reader directly with “you”.
- Keep the tone friendly, but not too casual.

Useful language

A few flexible phrases 短语 let you hook the reader and glide between ideas.

- **To open with energy:** *Have you ever...? / Imagine you... / Last week, something odd happened to me.*
- **To move between ideas:** *What’s more... / On the other hand... / The truth is...*
- **To speak to the reader:** *You might think... / We all know that... / Be honest —...*
- **To end memorably:** *So next time you... / Perhaps the real question is...*

Vary how you open sentences. Ten sentences that all begin “*I think*” feel flat 平淡; mixing your openings keeps the reader awake.

A model opening

See how one opening hooks the reader, then points forward.

Have you ever tried to sleep with a phone glowing beside your pillow? Most of us have — and most of us wake up tired. This article asks a simple question: could a good night’s sleep be the cheapest way to feel happier?

The question pulls the reader in, the honest detail keeps them, and the last line promises where the article is going. That is a lot of work for three sentences.

Exam tips

- Give the article a short, catchy title, then hook the reader with a question or surprise in the first lines.
- Talk to the reader: “Have you ever...?” An article is the one formal task where personality wins marks.
- One idea per paragraph, and make it real with a short example or a small story.
- Numbers and small facts make an article feel true: “three out of five students...”.
- End with a line the reader remembers: a punchline, a question, or a call to act.