

UNDERSTANDING ESSAYS

For EFL students at B1 level, **essay writing** should follow a **simple, repeatable structure**.

The goal is clarity, organization, and basic accuracy—not complexity.

1. Plan Before Writing (Very Important at level B1)

Planning prevents confusion and repetition. Students should first:

- Identify the **topic: brainstorm ideas**.
 - Identify the **specific vocabulary**.
 - Decide **how many paragraphs** you are going to use **and how much time** you have.
 - *One main idea per paragraph.*
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2. Body Paragraphs (1 idea = 1 paragraph)

- **Introduction:** topic + main idea. **Do NOT repeat the title**. Do:
 - Make a description with the verb TO BE and advanced adjectives.
 - Use simple description, comparatives and superlatives.
 - You can make a list of typical actions in the present simple and/or present continuous. **Use double verbs.**
 - You can give your opinion. Use the verb TO BE or present simple.
- **Body Paragraph 1:** main point + example. Do:
 - Explain the activities that were taking place with the past continuous.
 - Add complements with details.
 - Use adverbs with the verbs.
 - Give reasons (present simple/continuous), causes (past tense) or future plans.
- **Body Paragraph 2:** second main point + example. Do:
 - Explain the actions that interrupted using the past simple.
 - Use simple sentences.
 - Give reasons (present simple/continuous), causes (past tense) or future plans.
- **Conclusion:** summary + final comment. Do:
 - Explain the reaction of the people using descriptions with advanced adjectives.
 - Explain other consequences. Use past simple.
 - Give your opinion. Use MODAL VERBS: can, should, must.

3. Use Linking Words.

Remember to start new sentences after the linking words.

SUBJECT + AUXILIARY + VERB + COMPLEMENT

Common B1 Linking Words

- Adding: *and, also, moreover*
 - Giving reasons: *because, so*
 - Giving examples: *for example*
 - Contrasting: *however, but*
 - Concluding: *in conclusion, to sum up*
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4. Language Rules for B1 Essays

Encourage students to:

- Use **simple sentences** correctly
- Avoid very long sentences
- Use present simple or basic past forms
- Avoid informal language (no contractions, no slang)

Check spelling of common words.

5. Final Check (Editing Step)

Before submitting, students should check:

- Paragraphs are clear and separated
- Each paragraph has one main idea
- Linking words are used correctly

Basic grammar and spelling.
