

Writing 1 (Write essay)

Lead-in

- 1a When did you start learning a second language? Do you wish you had started earlier or was that the right time? Give reasons.
- b Work in pairs. Read the essay prompt and discuss your opinion.

'Children should learn a second language from as early an age as possible.' How far do you agree with this statement? Support your point of view with reasons and/or examples from your own experience.

Staging in essays

► EXPERT WRITING 6.1



Writing body paragraphs

- 2 Read the sample essay on page 193. What opinion does it express? How different or similar is this to the one you gave in Exercise 1a?
- 3a Which paragraph(s) in the sample essay is/are:
 - 1 the introduction? 2 the body? 3 the conclusion?
- b Match the stages (1–3) in Exercise 3a with their purpose (A–C).
 - A to explain the ideas that support the writer's opinion
 - B to introduce the topic and give the writer's opinion
 - C to wrap up the essay and repeat the writer's opinion
- 4 Read the first sentence of each paragraph in the body of the sample essay and answer the questions.
 - 1 Do the sentences make any points you discussed in Exercise 1a?
 - 2 What is the connection between these sentences and the opinion expressed in the essay?
- 5 Answer the questions about the body paragraphs of the sample essay on page 193. Use the tips in the boxes on that page to help you.
 - 1 What is the first sentence of each paragraph called?
 - 2 What does this sentence express?
 - 3 What kind of word or expression is at the beginning of this sentence?
 - 4 What does this word or expression show the relationship between?
 - 5 What does the rest of each body paragraph consist of: reasons or examples from the writer's own experience?
- 6 Read the essay prompt and follow steps 1–3 below.

'It's better to be bilingual or multilingual than to be monolingual.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Support your opinion with reasons and/or examples from your own experience.

- 1 Decide your opinion, then brainstorm some supporting ideas.
- 2 Choose the two or three strongest of these supporting ideas.
- 3 Write a paragraph for each. Make sure that:
 - A each paragraph has one main idea only.
 - B topic sentence in each paragraph clearly shows main idea.
 - C rest of paragraph provides evidence (reasons, examples, explanations, etc.) for main idea.
 - D ideas are linked smoothly with discourse markers.
 - E you have checked for spelling, grammar and punctuation mistakes.
- 7 Work in pairs. Exchange paragraphs and check each other's work using the points in step 3.
- 8 Discuss the results of step 3. Then refine the first draft of your paragraphs in light of your discussion.