

Cambridge Preliminary for Schools – Improve a letter

A. Look at this example exam question for Writing part 3:

- This is part of a letter that you received from a new English penfriend, Laura.

Well, that's everything about me. What about you? Tell me about what you like doing in your free time. And what do you like most about school?

- Now write a letter to Laura, answering the questions.

B. Now look at this sample answer. It doesn't have any grammar, spelling or vocabulary errors, but it isn't a very strong answer. Why not?

Hi Laura,

Thanks for your letter. How are you? I'm ok. I live in Spain and I'm a student. I like football and seeing friends. I read books. I like reading. It's fun. My favourite book is Harry Potter. Do you like Harry Potter? I don't like school. My favourite subject is English. The teacher is good. He teaches us a lot of things. Do you like school?

Bye!

C. Here are some things that are good to include in your writing. Does the sample letter include them?

- Linking words (*and, but, so, because*)
- Variety of grammar (*past simple, present perfect, future, comparatives*)
- Some advanced grammar (*conditionals, passive, relative clauses*)
- Good vocabulary (*adjectives, expressions, phrasal verbs*)

Talk with a partner. Where could this grammar and vocabulary be included in the sample letter?

D. Now write your own answer to the letter. Don't forget to include good grammar and vocabulary.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dashed lines.

E. Compare your letter with a partner. Correct their mistakes.