



Compte-rendu de séance

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Anglais - Réveil MyPrepa #14 : Anglais - Writing skills

RÉUNION

Responsable de la séance

Margot BRUNET

PROFESSEUR

Exemplaire de Badr BENKIRANE -
ADMINISTRATEUR

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Document Style Improvement Exercises - Version Elève.pdf (00:00:54)





Réveil MyPrépa Anglais – Margot Brunet
Tuesday, April 7th 2020

Style Improvement

Tips for your essays to have a 'compte-rendu' style:

1. No contractions, avoid repetitions, etc.
2. Use of formal vocabulary – words of Latin roots tend to be more formal than those of Germanic roots
 - ⇒ Ban "a lot of, lots of, plenty of" and use "many/much, numerous, a large number of"
 - ⇒ Be careful when using "Indeed" in English. Most of the time, French people mean "actually". 'Indeed' sert à renforcer une idée, alors que le « en effet » en français peut être utilisé pour donner une autre idée.
3. Use of unanimated objects as subject of your sentences
4. Use of active voice which conveys a more direct and clear impression (this does not mean the passive voice is banned, just that generally you might want to use it less)
5. Be efficient in your use of words – learn precise and technical language.

Further resources: <https://angleterre.org.uk/anglais/le-style-en-anglais.htm> (they suggest using passive voice (see point 3 and 4) which I do not agree with, but they have multiple examples you can work with).



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Examples:

The government took the measures to contain the pandemic. (Active voice, animated subject)

Measures to contain the pandemic were taken by the government. (Passive voice, unanimated subject)

Measures taken by the government to contain the pandemic inadvertently led to mass panic buying. (Active voice, unanimated subject)

Message de : Coralie
Admittedly

Admittedly, lower-class candidates tend not to apply for high-tuition-fee colleges, hence widening the educational gap between have and have-nots.

Message de : Coralie

Those expansive tuition fees may hamper low-income students to attend university.

Commentaire de : Margot B

Message de : Ken

Expensive

High tuition fees prevent the most modest from applying.

Message de : Ken

High tuition fees prevent the most modest to apply.

Message de : Marwane

The high tuition fees are about to cripple the poorest students who may not send their applications to enter the best universities

present an obstacle

apply to



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Examples:

1.

Every year, college students in the US pay about \$37,000 for education. Usually, college takes 4 years to complete, which means that students have to pay \$148,000 for a simple bachelor's degree. That is without taking into account the cost of living. However, more and more jobs require higher education today so as a result many students are crippled with debt.

Word count: 61

2.

The average tuition fee in the US is about \$37,000 per annum. A traditional college course of study requires 4 years, meaning the investment totals to \$148,000 for a simple bachelor's degree without factoring in living expenses. At an age of academic inflation, such high tuition fees are the root cause of mass student indebtedness.

Word count: 55

Extra vocabulary on the theme of Education:

Academic/credential/degree inflation

Bachelor's degree= undergraduate degree

To be crippled by debt = to be saddled with debt

A crippling debt



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Exercise 1: Take these next sentences and spend a couple min trying to make ^{them} the best sentence you have ever written.

Note: Cette étape est importante pour améliorer votre premier jet du brouillon. Vous n'aurez pas le temps de réécrire tout votre essai, donc concentrez-vous sur quelques phrases en relecture. L'idéal est bien sûr de déjà écrire dans le style formel mais on peut toujours améliorer quelques phrases.

N'hésitez pas également à reprendre des essais que vous avez fait auparavant pour voir comment vous auriez pu mieux rédiger. Il s'agit d'un exercice très formateur !

1. Those high tuition fees in turn mean that candidates with low incomes may not be able to afford those fees and therefore may not send in their applications.
2. After the pandemic, people viewed the Open University and MOOCs as a more and more credible alternative to the traditional university experience.
3. In 2010, the Brown review found that universities in the UK were not receiving enough money. In 2012, universities were therefore allowed to charge a maximum tuition fee of £9,250 versus £3,000 before.



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Exercise 1 Correction

1.

Those high tuition fees in turn mean that candidates with low incomes may not be able to afford those fees and therefore may not send in their applications.

Proposition de correction

Consequently, potential low-income candidates are deterred from applying to university for fear of being saddled with debt for life.

Proposition de correction (bis)

Consequently, such high tuition fees can act as a deterrent for potential low-income candidates who fear being saddled with debt for life.

2.

After the pandemic, people viewed the Open University and MOOCs as a more and more credible alternative to the traditional university experience.

Proposition de correction

In the aftermath of the/Consequent to the pandemic, the Open University and MOOCs have become a viable alternative to the traditional college experience.

3.

In 2010, the Brown review found that universities in the UK were not receiving enough money. In 2012, universities were therefore allowed to charge a maximum tuition fee of £9,250 versus £3,000 before.

Proposition de correction

In 2010, funding for universities in the UK were reported to be insufficient in the Brown Review. Consequently, maximum tuition fees rose from £3,000 to £9,250 in 2012.



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Exercise 2: You will find below the beginning of an article from The Guardian. Please take 15-20 min to summarize it in 50 words (+/- 10%).

"Hundreds of thousands of students whose lives have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic have signed a petition calling for tuition fee refunds. Many students are also facing demands from landlords on many UK campuses for ongoing rent on their vacated rooms.

An online petition to parliament for reimbursement of this year's fees, posted this week by a geography undergraduate at the University of Liverpool, had gathered nearly 250,000 signatures by Wednesday evening.

In the past two weeks British universities have switched to online or remote learning to counter the spread of Covid-19 and many have also closed their campuses. Some courses were also affected by weeks of staff strike action earlier in the year.

While many students acknowledge their universities' efforts to continue delivering their education, others are angry they are not getting the university experience they were promised."

Link to full article : <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/mar/25/hundreds-thousands-uk-students-call-tuition-fee-refunds>



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Exercise 2 Correction

Version moyenne d'un élève anonyme :

Covid-19 has disrupted student's lives in the UK. Universities cannot provide the traditional experience anymore. Campuses were closed and students switched to online courses. In the meantime, students were expected to keep paying their high tuition fees and rents for their empty rooms. As a result, nearly 250,000 students signed a petition to parliament for reimbursement of this year's fees.

Word count: 60 words

Comment:

+: No mistakes (again, already a huge feat!)

To improve:

- Went over the word count (I would suggest removing the sentence "Universities cannot provide the traditional experience anymore" as it is included in campus closure -> then word count would be 53 words).
- Many words were copied from the original text (switch, disrupt) even if the sentence structures were changed
- Did not mention the strikes (prioritise information better).

Proposition de correction:

UK education has been drastically altered by the pandemic as classes are now being offered remotely. That, coupled with academic strikes earlier this year, has led to an online petition endorsed by almost 250,000 student signatures demanding a refund of tuition fees, especially as some landlords refuse to waive rent for now unoccupied university housing.

Word count: 55 words