



What is a „comment“?

A comment is a type of essay in which you give your opinion on a topic. It usually deals with a controversial issue or statement, which can be based on a text. In a comment (Operator: comment on / write a comment) you want to convince the reader of your own opinion on an issue. You have to give arguments to support it and may even introduce counter-arguments which you refute to make your own arguments even stronger.

Step 1: Preparation

- Form your opinion on the topic.
- Collect all the material (arguments and examples) you can to support your opinion.
- Think of possible counterarguments. Refuting them can be a good way to convince the reader.
- Make an outline to structure your material. It is a good idea to start with the weakest argument and end with the strongest.
- To make your text convincing, plan stylistic devices, e.g. rhetorical questions or hyperbole.

Step 2: Writing

Introduction

Present the issue and attract the reader's attention. When commenting on a given text, briefly summarize the point the author makes. Use discussion phrases.

Second part

State your opinion and outline reasons for your view.

Third part

Present your arguments in one paragraph each.

Conclusion

Summarize your opinion and give an outlook on further developments or possible solutions. Do not introduce any new ideas here.

Step 3: Editing and Checking

- Make time to read through your draft and check for mistakes. Take a break before, if possible.
- Check for most frequent mistakes first.
- Concentrate on one aspect, then read again for the next.
- Read aloud to check the flow of the text.
- Make overly complex sentences simpler or shorter.
- Check for correct content and logical structure.
- Is an important point missing?
- Check for spelling, grammar, punctuation mistakes and variety in words and sentences.
- If possible, ask someone else to check too.
- In an exam write a neat and tidy final version.



Useful phrases

Task	Time
1. Match these 18 connectors with the correct category so that you have three alternatives in each box.	5

To start with • All in all • Especially • Also • In terms of • Therefore • Admittedly • For instance • Yet • Most importantly • In short • In comparison • As opposed to • As regards • ... such as • Moreover • Firstly • As a result

Useful phrases		
Starting 1. _____ people should be aware of 2. _____ the fact that ... 3. _____	Drawing conclusions 1. _____ we have to consider that 2. _____ ... 3. _____	Emphasizing 1. _____ if we think of 2. _____ ... 3. _____
Adding 1. _____ many experts point out that 2. _____ ... 3. _____	Contrasting 1. _____ A, B also sees the 2. _____ problem of ... 3. _____	Indicating a topic (change) 1. _____ the global dimension, 2. _____ ... 3. _____
Summarizing 1. _____ there is no doubt about it that ... 2. _____ 3. _____	Making concessions 1. _____ it remains to be seen if ... 2. _____ 3. _____	Giving examples 1. _____ the danger of ... 2. _____ ... 3. _____

Criteria		