

Writing Task 2 : improving a paragraph

The paragraph below is very good already, but we can make some simple improvements.

Paragraph about the topic: “Some people think that more money should be spent to promote the use of bicycles in cities”.

There are several reasons why people believe more money should be allocated to encourage the use of bicycles, especially for the centres of major cities. They argue that this is an environmental friendly transport, and it is likely to reduce traffic congestion on busy roads. Motorised vehicles produce a whole host of toxic gases which will pollute the atmosphere, and unlike bicycles, they take up significant space on public roads. From a health perspective, it can also be argued that riding bicycles regularly not only beneficial to cyclists' health as it is a good cardiovascular exercise, but also a form of leisure which provides a sense of relaxation.

Tips to improve the above paragraph:

- The topic sentence states that there are 'several reasons'. Several reasons are then given, but not in the most coherent way. Let's state the 3 reasons (environment, congestion, health) one by one, and add simple linking words (e.g. firstly, secondly finally). The reasons will then be much clearer to the reader.
- Let's write the usual 5 sentences instead of 4.
- Use 'environmentally' instead of 'environmental'.
- In the final sentence, the “not only... but also” phrase is not used correctly.

Improved paragraph:

There are several reasons why people believe that more money should be allocated to encourage the use of bicycles in cities. Firstly, they argue that bicycles are an environmentally friendly form of transport. Whereas motorised vehicles pollute the atmosphere with a whole host of toxic gases, bicycles produce no emissions whatsoever. Secondly, bicycles take up far less space on public roads, and traffic congestion would therefore be significantly reduced if more people used them. Finally, from a health perspective, it can be argued that riding a bicycle regularly is not only good cardiovascular exercise for the cyclist, but also a form of leisure that alleviates stress and helps people to relax.