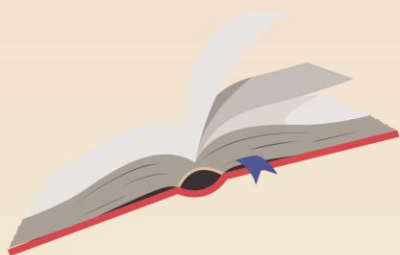


HHCKLA BUDDHIST LEUNG CHIK WAI COLLEGE



Budding Writers

Vol.8






Foreword

Like Chinese, English is a very practical and precise language, but it can also be quite artistic and fun. Hong Kong has a long tradition of using English for business and trade, as well as enjoying English music and movies. English connects Hong Kong to the world and attracts many tourists from other countries. English provides a lot of jobs for Hong Kong companies. Many people in English-speaking countries care deeply for Hong Kong and love its' culture.

Learning English can help you to become more intelligent, earn money, express your heart's feelings and meet new friends. English can change your life. A Chinese proverb states "To learn another language is to gain a new window to see the world with."

Within this volume of Budding Writers are writing samples from our students who have shown the ability to communicate clearly, creatively and concisely with English. It is the school's sincere hope that you enjoy the skill and care these students have shown in their writing. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson
Native English Teacher,
English Department



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[1] 1C Wong Tsz Wai, Jason

A Helpful Dog

Charlie had white fur and looked like a cloud. He was a fat cat. His owner was Simon, a young boy. One day, Charlie slept on the grass. The weather was sunny. He looked up at the trees. He wanted to climb up one to see the view from up high.



Charlie climbed high up a tree and looked down at the people on the street far below. He felt scared, but was too frightened to climb back down the tree. Suddenly, Charlie cried, ‘Help! Help!’ Then, Simon looked up, saw Charlie and immediately ran over to the tree to save Charlie. Charlie saw how scared Simon was and could not come down.

Charlie went to find Boris. Boris was a horse. Charlie knew he could not communicate with Boris, so he pulled Boris over beside the tree Simon was stuck in. Then Charlie gave instructions to Simon to jump down onto Boris’s back. Simon jumped down from the tree onto Boris. Charlie purred loudly and happily. Simon thanked Boris and gave him some carrots.

(image source : <https://wapo.st/2OinRvD>)



Teacher’s feedback

Good work, Jason! You understood what to do in the story. You tried very much to make your story interesting by using adjectives and adverbs.



Teen Sports

Many young people like playing sports because they provide a lot of health benefits. Let me tell you what sports teenagers like.

First, I want to tell you that there are many benefits to playing basketball. It can help you get along with other people. Teenagers often feel lonely. When you play basketball, you can meet new friends and be more cheerful.

Now, I want to tell you about volleyball. This sport can train your muscle power, so you will have quick reactions. When the ball is coming, you need to beat the ball back very quickly. This sport can help develop your teamwork and communication skills with your teammates.

Finally, playing sports is a lot of fun. Teenagers should complete their homework first though before playing their favorite sports with friends and family.



Teacher's feedback

Detailed descriptions of the two teen sports. You could write in different sentence patterns.



[3] 1D Yuke Chan

My Best friend



Cherry Lai is my best friend. She is short and slim. She has long straight hair.

After finishing her school work at the weekend, she sometimes watches TV or reads books.

She is good at Mathematics. She always helps me with my Math homework. She thinks it is easy but I don't agree with her.

In winter, she drinks hot chocolate a lot! I think she loves hot chocolate because it is warm and sweet! She loves eating sweets.

She loves cats too. They are cute, lovely and pretty. I always draw little cats' pictures for her. She loves them very much.

Although we are in different schools, we always chat with each other every day. I hope we can be good friends forever.

(image source : <https://bit.ly/2OptIQ1>)



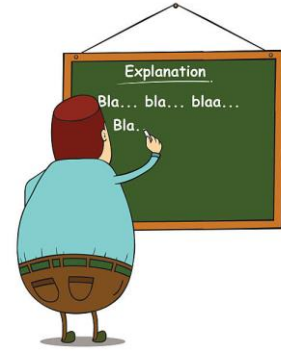
Teacher's feedback

You describe Cherry's interests and hobbies very well. It would be better if you could tell how you met and what you do together during your free time.



[4] 1D Jody Ho

My Class Teacher



I interviewed Mr. Cheung yesterday.

Mr. Cheung is very fat. He wears glasses. He has very little hair. He is the Form 1D class teacher and he teaches me Maths.

Mr. Cheung likes reading books in his spare time because they are interesting and he can learn a lot of knowledge. He likes the colour blue and often wears a blue T-shirt. He lives in Tsuen Wan and travels to school by bus. If he is late, he takes a taxi! Mr. Cheung's favourite food is ice-cream because it is sweet and makes him feel cool in summer.

I am very happy that Mr. Cheung is my Form One class teacher. He is very kind and funny.

(image source : <https://bit.ly/2VhqG1t>)



Teacher's feedback

Jody, I like reading your work. You describe Mr. Cheung's appearance and likes very clearly. Mr. Cheung is a helpful and nice teacher who always cooks delicious food for others. (You will see this at school picnic! Look forward to it.)

You can use connectives such as like, because and so in your sentences. Keep it up!



[5] 2A Leung Hoi Ki

Online Stress

Hi Freddie,

I'm sorry to hear about your brother and sister's problems. The Internet is a useful tool to communicate and reduce stress. But overuse of the Internet can cause social media addictions. It can tear relationships apart. So I am going to give you some advice to help your siblings beat their social media addictions.



First, why are they so addicted to the Internet? Maybe because of their daily life stress or depression. It is important to understand them. Peer pressure or loneliness can also be causes of Internet overuse. You can try to talk with them. Ask them if there are problems or something depressing at school. Let them know that you care about them. Tell them their family is the biggest source of encouragement and support for them. Don't forget to tell them how you feel about their problem.

To help your siblings reduce their online time and strike a balance between their studies and use of the internet, you can advise them to develop healthier hobbies such as reading, swimming or drawing. These activities could help them reduce their time spent online. I would suggest telling them they should set a daily limit on their Internet usage – such as not using it for more than two hours a day.

I hope these suggestions can help you and your siblings. Remember, don't give up easily. Help your siblings beat their internet addiction. Good luck!

Best wishes,
Chris

(image source : <https://bit.ly/333Lnkd>)



Teacher's feedback

Well done! You write neatly-sequenced paragraphs with highly-detailed and relevant examples. I like how you use the word 'First', at the start of your second paragraph to direct the reader's attention. Very effective!

For next time... - Avoid use of the conjunction 'and' at the start of a sentence. Aim for more accurate verb form tenses.



Space Rescue

Today humanity accomplished a huge goal. Our NASA engineers built a new spaceship and rescued two really brave astronauts, Qubi and Raymond. They were lost in space.

As many days went by, both Qubi and Raymond hung around in space exploring the beauty of the universe. They chatted in the spaceship peacefully and talked about different things that they wanted to learn about in space. Raymond wanted to see some different types of planets beside Mars. He told Qubi that he always wanted to see Mercury and other interesting planets. Qubi said that she wanted to see aliens as she thought they were really cute and fun.

While they were chatting with each other, the control panel of the spaceship started smoking. They saw smoke coming from many places in the ship. The smoke was black. After detailed checking, Raymond found that the engine was burning under the control panel. As a result, the spaceship broke down. They were going to evacuate by using the spaceship's shuttle.

While Qubi and Raymond were evacuating, an alien's hologram came through the communication system of the spaceship shuttle. The alien was using some kind of language that the astronauts did not understand. However, they could sense that something was wrong. They were terrified, so they quickly headed to the nearest space station to send a message to earth.

The duo successfully left the spaceship and headed to the space station. Nevertheless, they were captured by some aliens and escorted to their advanced

spaceship. The astronauts were really afraid as they were going to be dissolved by the aliens in the spaceship. While Qubi and Raymond were kept in a cell, the pair saw various advanced forms of technology that they had never encountered on earth before.

Suddenly, the aliens let them out. They wanted to do an experiment with one of them. The aliens chose Qubi because they complained that Raymond was too fat and had to be kept in the spaceship cell. When Raymond was still in the cell, the alien guards sent him something to eat. When the guards started to unlock the cell, Raymond attacked them and then they lost consciousness. He quickly ran away from the cell and tried to find Qubi. Luckily, on the way, he found Qubi, but she was kidnapped by three alien guards. Within seconds, Raymond knocked them out with a stick and saved Qubi.

The duo ran to the control room of the spaceship and attempted to commandeer the alien's spaceship. They hardly understood any of the control panel's language, so they randomly clicked something and flew to Mars. When they arrived on Mars, they almost ran out of oxygen at that point of time. Without any oxygen, the astronauts...

(image source : <https://bit.ly/2lyZS7L>)



Teacher's feedback

Matthew, you are creative and have a sense of humour. Your narrative does include plots, setting, characters and above all – a climax. I was immersed in the second to last paragraph of your story. To improve your writing, please pay attention to the use of reference words such as 'they'.



[7] 2D Tse Yan Choi, Courtney

Healthier Hobbies

Dear Seriously Annoyed Boy,

I totally understand how harmful video game addiction is to your friend Mark.

If Mark does not fix this problem, he will suffer a lot of negative consequences from video game addiction. For example, he will get low exam grades. If he cannot finish his homework on time, he will get detentions. Perhaps he will fall asleep in his lessons. That is what will happen if he still continues playing video games.



To stop him from getting further addicted to video gaming, you have to tell him how you feel. Then he will know that his addiction to video gaming is harming others.

I have some ideas to help Mark beat his addiction. The first way is to develop healthier hobbies such as drawing, doing sports and playing music. He can get involved in healthier hobbies instead of playing video games.

The second way is to tell him to set a limit. If he does not set any limit but keeps playing video games, his eye sight could be hurt. He may also develop short-sightedness. As a result, he may have to wear glasses.

If you want to find more useful ways to help your friend, you can seek help from a social worker. The social worker can help him solve the problem.

Good luck!
Dr. Q

(image source : <https://bit.ly/2lxunLo>)



Teacher's feedback

Courtney, your letter was well-developed with feasible recommendations. You are able to address the letter to a correct audience. To further improve your letter of advice, you should put yourself in the shoes of Mark by using patterns like 'If I were Mark, I would...'



[8] 3A Fan Chun Kit

Spend Some Save Some



Dear Uncle James,

I'm pleased to receive your letter and am thankful for the birthday present you sent to me. How have you been recently? Did you have a nice time in London?

I received your letter when I returned home after school. Reading the letter, I was on cloud nine. When I learnt that the birthday present was \$5000, I immediately checked whether the money had been deposited into my bank account. My parents knew it was and told me that I should spend less money and save most of the \$5,000. Thank you very much for your wonderful gift.

The first items I wanted to purchase were some sports items, especially a badminton set! I really wanted to buy a new one because I had broken two rackets accidentally. Moreover, as far as you know, I love playing badminton a lot.

My next preferred purchase was related to entertainment, specifically video games. Playing computer games is enjoyable and helps me to relax. I like to play video games that are about battle and survival with my friends during holiday. However, I study hard every weekday so my parents never have to worry about my grades.

While I was thinking about what to buy, I saw an TV advertisement explaining how millions of people were injured and killed in wars. I thought

seriously about this issue and decided to use my money to help these victims. I then saw some people selling flags on the street to raise money for charity. The flag I bought was from the Hong Kong Red Cross.

Also, I'll save about \$1500 in my bank account for emergencies. It will earn interest. Instead of buying something I want, I decided to help people despite my limited ability and resources to do so.

Finally, I hope you can come to Hong Kong and visit me. We can watch a film together.

Best wishes,
Chris

(image source : <https://bit.ly/2lxxMtE>)



Teacher's feedback

Bravo, Terry!

You have used various sentence patterns in the letter. It's a good idea to include sufficient details on what you spend the money on. Meanwhile, you can add more details on the ways to spend money wisely.



Stop Bullying

Good morning everyone, I am Hong Kong police officer Andrew Ma. Recently, I have attended to many cases of bullying at school. I feel worried as it has become a serious problem for schools and parents. Therefore, I am here to share how to prevent the bullying.



Here is a case from last Friday. During recess, three students were happily playing basketball. Suddenly, a group of bullies wanted to play and told them to leave the basketball court. The victims refused. They were followed into a toilet where the bullies started to punch and kick them. Even worse, one of the victims was robbed. His money was stolen and his phone was damaged. Luckily, a prefect who was patrolling saw this and stopped the bullies immediately. The victims' faces were covered in blood. They were sent to the hospital. Although they had serious injuries, they quickly recovered. The bullies were asked to go to detention class during their summer holiday.

Let me share some useful and effective ways for you to stop bullying at school. First, schools can arrange more prefects and teachers to patrol more often than before in order to reduce the chance of bullying. Secondly, teachers should warn the students that they will be in big trouble if they bully others. Finally, teachers should educate students that it's not right to solve the problems with violence.

That's all I want to share. I hope there will be no bullies anymore.

(image source : <https://dz9yg0snnohlc.cloudfront.net/how-to-stop-bullying-when-you-see-it-1.jpg>)



Teacher's feedback

Well done, John!

You have described the case in detail with an appropriate tone. To enrich the content, you can suggest more ways to help stop bullying.



[10] 3B Cheung Ngai Ling

An email about acts

From: chrishandsome@yahoo.com.hk
To: ellabeauty@gmail.com
Subject: Share three audition acts



Dear Ella,

How are you? I am fine. I watched three auditions for America's Got Talent. I want to share them with you now.

The first audition was called Human Fountains. The performers were four men in black suits. It was a water spitting show. The performers spat water from their mouths in sync with music. They spat water into their teammates' mouths. The last one drank the water. It was very dirty, but interesting.

The second audition act was Yumbo Dump. The performers were Fujiwara and Kasha. It was a sound-making show. The performers made sounds with their bodies. They used their belly buttons to make the crying sound of dolphins.

The third audition act was called Smoothni. The performer was Pela Crua. It was a magic show. Pela put a pen into his nose and took it out from his mouth. It was an amazing magic show.

I have shared three auditions with you. I hope you will enjoy them. They are funny.

Best,
Chris

(image source : <https://et.tv/2oQsy5a>)



Teacher's feedback

Good, Phoebe! You express key ideas with simple sentences. Also, you master the simple present and simple past tenses well.



[11] 3D Wong Wai Ching

Film Review

Venom is a new superhero movie. The protagonist is Eddie Brock. He is a journalist attempting to make a career comeback by investigating a high-tech company scandal. However, he accidentally becomes the host of an alien called a symbiote that gives him a violent super alter-ego. He becomes a new lifeform called Venom, using his newfound power to protect the world from a shadowy organization looking for a symbiote of their own.

The movie is filled with funny conversations between the symbiote Venom and Eddie Brock. Sometimes Eddie suggests Venom is a 'disease' or 'parasite' and Venom gets upset because of this. As the story progresses, Eddie tries to get Anne back, but he is too afraid to express his feelings. Venom always encourages him to talk to Anne. This 'symbiotic' relationship between Eddie and Venom makes both of them transform into better beings. Eddie becomes a braver, more assertive man, and Venom becomes a more caring alien who decides to stay on earth.

The film is full of action. The most exciting scene is the car chase where Eddie escapes from the lackeys of Carlton Drake, the movie's main villain. At that moment, Eddie still had not surrendered to Venom. It was funny to see how Eddie was simultaneously amazed and scared by his new powers and abilities.

I recommend this film to anyone who likes action or comedy because this film is very exciting and funny. The cast is good-looking too. If you want a break from Marvel's Avengers series, then Venom would be a good choice for you.

(image source : <https://bit.ly/2GYH1EH>)



Teacher's feedback

Wai Ching described the movie without revealing too many plot details. She mentioned the fun parts of the movie and talked about why she loved it. It would be better if she could compare Venom with other similar movies, or discuss the recent changes in hero movie formats and the concept of heroes and anti-heroes.



The Greatest Invention

The Mobile Phone

Mobile phones are handheld devices that many people around the world use daily, not to mention the millennial. What makes them so attractive are their functions. Mobile phones have a wide variety of applications that can make our lives more comfortable. You can text your friends, post stories, play games or even control your home's electronic appliances while you are out.

Also, mobile phones are so small that they can usually fit into your pocket. You can bring them anywhere. Mobile phones are one of the twentieth century's most important inventions.

The Internet

The Internet can connect to every corner of the world. You cannot text your friends without the Internet. It shortens the distance between people. You can chat with a person instantly even though he is in another country. You can also know what happens all around the world by using a device which is connected to the Internet. It can also make your life better. For example, before you go hiking, you should check the weather forecast first. But without current information from the Internet, you need to take an umbrella. It may rain cats and dogs while you are out hiking. The Internet is a very significant invention.



The Computer

Nowadays, most of the people use desktop computers to browse the Internet. But why don't we use mobile phones to do this? It is because computers enable us to search for greater volumes of information at much higher rates of speed. Computers can also save greater amounts of data. Moreover, there are convenient laptop computers which you can take everywhere with you, just like your mobile phone. The computer is one of the most profound inventions ever.

The Watch

The watch is a necessity in Hong Kong. You must always look at a watch to see what time it is. Without a watch, you will find it difficult to keep a schedule and be on time for important appointments. Unlike a clock, which is not designed to be carried around, you can fasten your watch to your wrist and see the time anytime you like, wherever you are. A watch's mobility makes it much more convenient. The watch is a very valuable invention.

(image source : <https://bit.ly/31NN7Oj>)



Teacher's feedback

Well done! You manage to cover a broad range of topics that are all similar in how they add convenience and ease to modern day living. You also provide relevant and specific details that support your ideas clearly. Good work!

For next time... - Avoid inaccurate use of prepositions and conjunctions. Also, aim for more precise wording and concise sentence structure.



Living in a cage home



It is unbelievable that there are so many cage homes in Hong Kong. I was shocked when I actually saw one.

I chose to do a project about cage homes. I have a friend who lives in one, so I contacted him to get more information about them. I could not believe what he told me about cage home living conditions. I thought he was lying. He suggested that I try living in his cage home for a week.

The first time I visited my friend's cage home, I was shocked by what I saw. There were many people living in a small room. The cage home consisted of bunk beds surrounded by metal cages. It was hard to walk to my 'bed' because the place was so cramped. There was almost no space between two bunk beds. Also, the residents shared a kitchen and bathroom. The kitchen was really dirty and smelly, so I always bought fast-food instead of cooking there.

I could not sleep well in the cage home because it was very hot and stuffy. It was unpleasant because there was no fresh air. To make things worse, there were bed bugs in the mattress that made me itch. I started to feel that I was lucky

because I just lived there for one week. I could not imagine how some people live in those conditions for their whole lives.

After I had lived in a cage home for a week, I learnt that they are really horrible. I now know more about poor people. I want to help them. I think the government needs to do something to improve their living standards as soon as possible.

(image source : <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/iQBF3vX3dOQ/maxresdefault.jpg>)



Teacher's feedback

Good job, Anson!

You have described the cage homes very clearly. To make your description more interesting, you can add more details. For example, tell your readers how large the flat is and what the place looks like. Use more adjectives to describe the place and the people who live there.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have read your post “Stop coming to Hong Kong, mainlanders!” but I totally disagree with the post’s points.

Some people say that mainlanders are buying up the daily necessities, but I think this problem ended a few years ago. Now the mainland economy is developing quickly. Even Hong Kong cannot follow their speed of growth. Their daily necessities have become better and better now. Many mainlanders now buy their daily necessities domestically in China now. If one cannot find daily necessities in shops, they can be purchased online. I disagree that mainland Chinese are buying up all of Hong Kong’s daily necessities.

Some people complain that they cannot get a seat on the MTR. However, I think it is not all because of mainlanders. It has been a problem in Hong Kong for many years already. In Hong Kong there are seven million people who all live in this very cramped, small place. In the morning people all need to go to their place of work. Hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong’s daily commuters don’t own a car or ride a taxi, bus or minibus. They use the MTR. It has been this way in Hong Kong for several decades now. Though fast and efficient, the MTR began having problems with over-crowding and lack of seating long before mainlanders began arriving here in large numbers.

Finally, I see the complaint about the shop assistants speaking Putonghua to customers. I need to ask, is this really a problem? Shops are businesses. They need to earn money. If the customers are Westerners, they will speak English to them. Now many shop customers here are mainlanders. So, shops will sell their

products much more easily by speaking Putonghua. If the customers are long-time residents from Hong Kong, shops will use Cantonese because it is the language that the customers can understand. Then, they can sell the items. I do not see any problems here.

These are all my opinions. I think we should learn to accept mainlanders. We are in the same country, whether we like it or not.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

(image source : <https://bit.ly/2opRosM>)



Teacher's feedback

Well done, Kenny!

You express your ideas in a simple and straightforward way, with logical and convincing reasoning. You can improve your writing if you explore the issue further by explaining why the mainlanders have to come to Hong Kong to buy daily necessities or why the MTR is so crowded and what can be done to alleviate the problems. Avoid using the same words or phrases, such as 'daily necessities', repeatedly, and try to use new words and phrases you have learnt in lessons.



Coffin Homes – Any Solution in Sight?



‘There is a mouse running straight to your bed!’

‘I see it - but my room is so small and crowded that I can’t even move quickly enough to catch it!’

This conversation is not a soap drama script, but a talk that has just occurred between two men living in subdivided flats. Not being able to move about a room quickly enough to catch insects or rodents may seem extremely bizarre to us as students, but many other Hong Kong residents are suffering identical problems living in subdivided, caged homes.

According to a recent magazine article, there are approximately 200,000 Hong Kong citizens living in so called ‘coffin homes’, which include tiny cubicles or subdivided compartments within one apartment unit. Fortunately, there are an array of remedies to this current situation.

First and foremost, our government should definitely increase the housing supply to meet the needs of its increasing population. Since Hong Kong is such a small city densely packed with so many people, purchasing one's own flat seems to be out of reach. However, if the housing supply can be increased as soon as possible, the current shortage can easily be resolved.

There are many plans for housing development in Hong Kong such as developing the outskirts of country parks and the reconstruction of older buildings. These development plans are suitably designed to suit Hong Kong's needs, but many are waiting for official government bureaucratic approval before starting to build. If our government can speed up the process of considering these well-organized and useful plans, there is no doubt that the housing supply will rapidly increase. Additionally, the more housing supply there is, the lower property prices will be and the more likely people can purchase their own flats. Therefore, the number of people living in coffin homes can be greatly reduced.

In addition to increasing housing supply, the introduction of laws regulating subdivided flats is also needed. Currently, there are not many laws that properly regulate the use and sale of subdivided flats as existing what laws contain numerous loopholes. Consequently, many owners are selling unsafe, insecure and illegally subdivided flats. For example, some coffin homes are divided to such an extent that tenants can't move easily around in them. This greatly dampens the quality of life for many residents and even puts their lives at risk as they may not be able to safely escape a fire due to the lack of fire alarms and stairway access. If laws regulating the construction of these flats can be introduced – and actively enforced, the number of illegal flats will definitely drop. This outcome could prevent tenants from living in confined areas and reduce their exposure to hazardous living spaces.

Apart from the above, financial support should also be provided to solve the problem from its stem. Even in this millennial era where our beloved hometown is full of vibrancy, the disparity between the privileged and the disadvantaged is still painfully evident. As financial constraints are a major contributor to the number of growing coffin home tenants, aid given to first time flat purchasers might greatly alleviate the problem.

To conclude, ‘coffin homes’ have become a divisive, controversial issue recently. Proper solutions like increasing the housing supply, providing financial support and introducing applicable laws should be implemented. If suitable solutions are used to tackle the current problem, there is no doubt that the problem can be solved in time. I also hope that our government can listen to the clamor of its residents and take these solutions into proper consideration.

(image source : <https://on.natgeo.com/2pNitGH>)



Teacher's feedback

Well done! You write neatly-sequenced paragraphs with highly-detailed and relevant examples. You maintain a consistent tone throughout and properly sequence your ideas.

For next time... – Avoid use of superfluous wording. Focus on economic sentence structure. This will greatly improve the writing's depth.





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Editor : Mr. Anderson

November 2019

