# Budding Writers

Vol.9





# 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] 1B Khan Saqib

### My New School

From: \_\_\_@hmail.com

To: Jayho@gmail.com

Subject: My new school

Hi Jay,

Nice to talk to you! I want to tell you about my new school.

My school name is HHCKLA BUDDHIST LEUNG CHIK WAI COLLEGE. There are many facilities in our school such as a gym, a basketball court and a tuck shop.

There are many school clubs you can join such as Drama Club, Photography Club, Reading Club and Sport Club. I have joined the Sports Club because I love sports. We have meetings every Thursday after school.

Although there are many things I love about my school, there are a few things I think my school is missing. I wish it had a football pitch and a swimming pool.

What's your new school like? I would love to know about it! Hope we can catch up soon.

Cheers, Sagib



### Teacher's feedback

Nice sentence structure and accurate word use.



### [2] 1D Tam Chun Ho, Oscar

### Welcome to My World

Hello, my name is Oscar. I am a F.1 student. I am 11 years old. I was born on 29 November, 2007. I am fat and short but I am clever and empathetic.

I have four family members. They are my dad, mum, sister and I. We go travelling twice a year. My school life is great. I have lots of friends and the teachers are good. My dream is to become an IT specialist because I am good at fixing computers and I enjoy using them.

I like playing games at weekends. I also like watching films. I have a photo album and it is important to me because it has lots of my childhood photos and I always laugh when I view them.



(image source: https://635.gtbank.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/hello-clipart.jpg)



Teacher's feedback

Very clear writing. Good use of specific details.



### [3] 1D Liang Yun Hao, Jake

### **My Native English Teacher**

I interviewed Mr Anderson yesterday.

First, I asked him what his favourite hobbies are. He said that he likes running, hiking, reading and watching movies. I also like running. I practise running at weekends. I also like watching movies. Therefore, I share some of the same interests as Mr. Anderson's.



Next, I asked him what his favourite food is. Mr. Anderson told me that he likes ice-cream because it is delicious and makes him feel cool in the hot weather.

The last question that I asked him was what subject he teaches in our school. He replied, "Oral English."

I think Mr. Anderson looks sporty. He is nice to my classmates. Sometimes he tells funny jokes. All my classmates laugh and feel happy.



### Teacher's feedback

I like how you sequence your points with specific reference words such as 'First' and 'Next'. This helps present your ideas clearly.



### [4] 1D Yip Wai Ting

### **Self-introduction**

My name is Torres. I am 12 years old. My birthday is on 25th June, 2007.

I am in Form 1 and my student number is 31. I study at HHCKLA Buddhist Leung Chik Wai College. It is in Tuen Mun. My English teacher is Ms Lam. She is kind.

I like reading because it is interesting. I like story books most. I always read when I am free. However, I cannot read story books when the examinations are coming because I have to do revision. After examinations are finished, I will read some new story books with my family.

(image source: https://bit.ly/2PmE8zx)





### Teacher's feedback

Good use of paragraphs. Clear and specific details.



### [5] 2A Chan Kin Nok, Samuel

### **Top Family Problems**

By Samuel Chan

Last month, we did a survey about top family problems in Hong Kong. Here are the results.

The most common family problem is the lack of space at home. Nowadays, Hong Kong housing prices are very high. Many people these days can only afford small flats. Since there is not much space, it is easy to annoy family members. To improve this situation, you should let your parents know you need to have a quiet environment and be open-minded with each other about making alternative agreements.

Another problem is sibling arguments. The most common reason for siblings to argue is damaging or stealing each other's things. Of course, anyone would be angry about this but you need to be calm. Try not to have any fights and arguments with your siblings. Also, apologizing is very important to do soon after you have argued.

The last problem is about money. Some family members lose their jobs and don't have enough money to buy what they want or need. Naturally, they feel frustrated. To solve this problem, try to spend money wisely. For example, don't buy expensive things like video games or basketball shoes. Study hard so your parents don't need to spend money on tutorial class. Then you can help to solve this kind of financial problem.

It is unrealistic to expect families not to have problems. However, knowing how to solve these problems can lead to a happier family!

(image source: https://bit.ly/2VmmtLS)



### Teacher's feedback

A very nice detailed writing with sensible suggestions! You identified and explained the three problems clearly. Your writing shows that you have a very positive attitude. Very good, Samuel!

Looking forward to your next writing.



### [6] 2B Kwan Ching Fung, Ronald

### **How to Keep School Campus Clean**

Dear Editor,

I think students need to understand that the environment is very important. Therefore, I am writing to talk about the environment of my school because the school campus has got dirtier recently.



The first problem is that many students throw rubbish onto the floor. The reason is that our school doesn't have enough rubbish bins. Also, teachers give too much paper to students. Therefore, I have some suggestions to make our school cleaner. The school can add more rubbish and recycling bins, as well as give less paper to students. Teachers can reduce the use of paper by creating online versions of homework on digital platforms.

The second problem is students do not switch off lights and air-conditioners before leaving their classrooms. If students do not turn off the lights and air-conditioners, they will use too much energy and make global warming worse. In view of this, students need to turn off the lights, fans and air-conditioners when leaving the classroom.

The last problem is that many Form One students do not finish their lunchboxes. Many Form One students leave a lot of leftovers. There are two causes of this --- the food is not delicious and/or the portions are too big. To rectify this matter, the school can make a box to collect food waste and use it to make fertilizer. This is more environmental friendly.

We have done enough damage to our school environment. Let us work together to protect the campus. Therefore, we should have more rubbish and recycling bins and turn off the lights when leaving the room.

Yours faithfully, Chris Wong



### Teacher's feedback

Ronald, good try on describing the problems and the reasons behind! Many of the paragraphs are well-developed and clearly written. However, try to add a few more details about your ideas. This will give the reader more useful information.

You can give more concrete descriptions. If you want students to switch off the electrical appliances, are there any ways that the school can do to remind them to do so?

Answering the problems you've mentioned is also important. Using food waste to make fertilizer is a brilliant solution, but what about the other problems? The taste and the portion?



### [7] 2D Hung Pui Yi

### **Online Shopping**

Do you like shopping online? I like it because it is very convenient. In the past, people had to go to a shopping mall to do their shopping. Now, all they need is a computer or a smartphone. Then they can shop anywhere, anytime, with lots of options and choices of affordable items.

Online shopping is very convenient. People don't need to go out. They can purchase items at home with their credit cards and pay for them later. They can enter their address and choose a delivery method, such as a courier like S.F. express or simply collecting their goods at convenient location. Now, companies like Amazon are experimenting with flying drone delivery. Some days, we might be able to see drones delivering goods in the sky.

Online shopping provides a lot of options and choices. Let's take shoes as an example. Online shops often have all the sizes. They have lots of various types of clothes for people with different body types. Some people might be worried about their clothes being the wrong size. Most stores offer free return services. If the clothes do not fit, customers can simply return them.

The prices of online shops are lower because owners do not need to pay so much rent, so they can offer frequent discounts. Moreover, it is a lot easier to compare prices online as customers do not need to walk to other stores to look at the prices.

Online shopping is great. I predict more people will eventually purchase most, if not all their things on the Internet in the future.

### (image source:

https://5.imimg.com/data5/GQ/FP/MY-26802338/online-shopping-system-500x500.jpg)



### Teacher's feedback

The essay was written in concise language. The ideas are well-illustrated. The comparison between traditional shopping and online shopping makes the essay sound more convincing.

To round out your argument (make it more comprehensive) – you might want to consider addressing the negative side on online shopping (i.e. fewer shops being rented, fewer landlord profits and fewer mall employees with jobs).



### [8] 3A Kwok Tsz Wai, Moses

### Aliens' resume mission



It was July, 2019. In Hong Kong and people were starting to build UFOs. The UFOs had many functions; they could transform into cars or planes and pick up really small items. Unfortunately, some people used their UFOs to do illegal acts.

About this time, there was a villain named Tim. His evil mission was to capture every human hostage and take over the earth. After spending one year building a UFO, his creation was finally finished. Its only function was to transport people. On his first test, Tim flew up high and started his mission.

"Oh my god, he is using his UFO to do bad things," said a young Form 3 student named James who looked up into the sky and watched Tim's evil UFO draw closer. Then everyone around James started to panic and run. Meanwhile, Tim's action was noticed by Aliens on the moon far away through a telescope. "We have to rescue the humans, they are in great danger,' said the alien leader Wargotz, adding, "If we don't do so, we will lose our planet too!" Wargotz ordered every alien solider to get ready to travel to the earth.

An hour later, the alien rescue team arrived. Tim was so pleased with how many humans his UFO had already captured that he didn't notice the aliens approach. Then James, who had managed to outrun and hide from the UFO,

noticed that its engine had an open maintenance door on the side. Through that door, James could see the UFO's engine spinning. He figured he could throw a tree branch through the door, wreck its engine and bring it crashing down to the ground. James quickly broke off a branch and thrust it with all his might towards the UFO's door. It missed. James didn't give up. He grabbed an even bigger branch, ran along the ground until he was directly underneath the UFO, took one last deep breath and then heaved the branch up into the sky.

This time, James watched as the branch disappeared inside the UFO. Then, he saw its rear engine sputter and cough. A big explosion came out of the UFO's side. As hoped, Tim's UFO malfunctioned and dropped from the sky. He was very angry about this. He tried to flee, but the aliens grabbed him and escorted him to the police. The aliens also boarded the UFO and freed the trapped humans inside. Tim was arrested for attempting to take over the earth and was jailed on the moon. He regretted his decision and the earth was restored to peace. Everyone thanked James – including the aliens. Wargotz promised that he would make James an honorary citizen of the moon. Tim was not so lucky. He spent the rest of his days in jail.

(image source: https://bit.ly/2usXr2I)



Teacher's feedback

Good to use dialogues to make your story more interesting. This story is interesting. You describe Jame's actions to save the humans in quite exciting terms.



### [9] 3A Ngai Hei Yeung, Oscar

### **Fundraising Event for Charity**



Everybody can lend a helping hand!

Volunteering is when you sacrifice your time to help others in need. That's what I did! I went to visit some elderly people last year. It was awesome. Let me tell you about it.

We were asked to go to different homes of elderly people and interact with them. At first, I was extremely nervous about going to meet with strangers. However, when we arrived at the first home, the old couple there greeted us with big smiles. That calmed me down a little.

As we talked with the couple, I became more and more confident. They were very kind and welcoming, and they even offered us some juice. However, when I asked why there was only one room, they explained that they were living in poverty and struggled to have a stable life. That moved me emotionally and I felt bad for the couple. I had never talked with someone who lived under the poverty line and struggled to deal with everyday tasks. The couple also said they were always lonely and that our visit was a huge relief. After gifting them snacks and supermarket coupons, we waved goodbye to the couple and returned home.

This activity was very meaningful. There are many people like that old couple who are struggling with poverty. We should show more love to them and join some volunteering activities that help them. This is one of the many ways that we can give back to the community. Even if you don't have much money to give to a charity, donating your time and effort to charity events is already enough to make people happy. If everyone volunteers, the world will be a better place.

(image source: https://www.padleygroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/fundraising-padley1.jpg)



Teacher's feedback

Very fluent and on task. If you can be more careful with the use of correct punctuations, you will surely get an even better score.



### [10] 5A Lee Chi Yung, Michael

### An email about part-time job

Dear Pat,

How are you? I know you want to get a part-time job during the holidays. I took a part-time job when I was a F.4 student. I'd like to share my ideas with you and hope they can be useful to you.

Nowadays, despite the wide variety of part-time jobs available to young people, you should carefully consider which job is best for you. First, since you are a student, when you choose a job, you should strike a balance between work and school. Even though you do take a part-time job during the holidays, you also need to study and do your schoolwork. You can't focus on earning money and disregard your grades at school. Therefore, when you take a job, a good balance should be maintained. You can choose to work in a restaurant like McDonald's. That will be easy for you as you don't need to work the whole day.

Before the job interview, you should collect some information about the job to know what you will do in the workplace. Also, you need to prepare your self-introduction for the interview. If you do this, then you will be more confident in answering questions during the interview. You should also be polite. This is very important.



Finally, I hope these ideas and advice have been useful for you. I hope you can learn more when you start a part-time job and get more experience.

Take care!

Yours, Chris

(image source:

https://www.truelancer.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/online-part-time-job.jpg)



### Teacher's feedback

Michael, you did a good job providing useful advice on the kind of part-time job a student should take and how to make preparations for a job interview.



### [11] 4A Wong Ka Hei, John

### My School

I have been studying at my school for many years. It has a wide variety of rooms, for example, the computer room and the school hall. For me, the classroom and the playground have given me many unforgettable experiences.

### Classroom

The classroom is a very special place for me. I not only study and learn there, but also play with my friends. In fact, I enjoy playing and chatting with my friends. I remember I once ran around the classroom with my friends. It was fine initially, but suddenly I heard a huge 'bang!' It was from my friend. He tripped and hit his head on a desk corner of a desk carelessly. His face was bleeding. It was extremely painful for him. I saw blood steadily coming out of the top of his head constantly. I escorted him to a teacher who helped him. Luckily he was fine after taking enough rest.

If I had not helped my friend, I would still feel guilty now, and probably for the rest of my life. To me, it was such a horrible accident that I still cannot forget it. The classroom, which was the 'crime scene', is not only a place for me to have lessons. It was where I first understood that I need to always be careful. This is the reason why I think the classroom is so special for me.

### Playground

Aside from the classroom, the playground is also a place that has special meaning for me. When I was in Form 2, I played in an inter-class basketball competition. My class was not very enthusiastic about playing basketball since not many of us had a talent for playing it. Therefore, it was normal for the

spectators to expect that we would lose the game. But we did not give up. We started our training two weeks before the match in the playground in order to try to defeat our opponents. Alas, we still lost the match. Indeed, we were still not good at playing basketball – but at least we worked hard and tried our best. We were proud of our efforts.

Even though we lost, we didn't feel disappointed and sad because we knew we had already tried our best. I have learnt another lesson from the experience, which is not to give up. We do not need to be afraid of failure. As a famous proverb says, 'failure is the mother of success.' Even though my team lost, I am sure others can have a chance at winning if they keep practising in the playground! This is also a reason why I think it is a special place for me.



Teacher's feedback

John, you developed your ideas quite well as you could use your real-life experiences to explain how special the two places were to you.



### [12] 4B Kong Tsz Ching, Jeanie

### **A Letter of Advice**



Dear desperate Form 4 student,

I'm sorry to hear that you have many problems. I hope I can offer you some advice.

I know you're upset about having no privacy. If you talk on the phone at home, your parents will hear what you say. I suggest you can communicate with friends through social media. How about changing the ways of communication? For example, if you send text messages with WhatsApp, your parents will not hear what you say and I advise you to share photos with Snapchat. Of course, please be careful with online security and always be cautious about what you are sharing – and who you are sharing it with. Online safety is so important.

I know you're also worried about your bad schoolwork grades and the difficulty you have studying at home. I suggest you go to study in other places. For example, try studying in the library, school canteen or a community centre. Since these places are quiet, they are conducive for effective studying. Libraries may also be useful for studying as they usually contain lots of reference books.

Your last problem is that you do not have enough money. I think you can't just drop out of school if you can't find a decent-paying full-time job. You can't simultaneously bear two heavy tasks. I suggest you make your current schoolwork and eventual grades your top priority for now. Then — once you finish school, go find a part-time job. If you get a job now, your schoolwork and grades will likely become worse. Hit the books first!

Some people say that schooldays are the happiest day of our lives, but you think they're wrong. Although you think others are incorrect to have this notion, I advise you to take time to enjoy your schooldays and youthful school life. These are the happiest days. Relax and enjoy them.

I hope I can help you to confront and to deal with your problems.

Best Wishes, Nicky

(image source:

https://killerinnovations.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/AdobeStock\_114767877-760x507.jpeg)



### Teacher's feedback

Ideas are clearly expressed. There are some good suggestions and it's good that you used what you've jotted down in your notebook. Additionally, I like how you have stuck to developing one idea per paragraph. Quite effective.



### [13] 4C Leung Hoi Ying ,Carol

### Free Yourself if even Trapped



I cannot forget the meaningful incident that happened yesterday.

Five classmates and I went to the fifth floor of a Wan Chai office building to study. We looked for vacated booths. Suddenly, we heard a loud 'boom!' Then, the lights suddenly went off. We were very worried as we had never experienced anything like that before.

After three hours had past, we felt a little bit suffocated since there were not any open windows and the air-conditioning was off. Even though we tried to open the fire exits, we failed since the electricity was off. All of a sudden, one of our friends who had asthma fainted. We were very nervous as we did not know what to do next.

Eventually, a security guard found us and called the Fire Services Department. They rescued us and our friend who had fainted. She was attended to by the paramedics. When we left, I saw that it was already 4 p.m. I remember we started being trapped at 11 a.m. and we were rescued at 4 p.m. For five hours we had been trapped! I will never forget this 'drama' as it was highly unforgettable and meaningful.

After this incident, I learnt that when we face a problem, we should be calm

and not panic, because then we can evacuate the situation more safely. Also, it is highly recommended that we should calm down if we face a problem.

(image source: https://bit.ly/2TfhJ8h)



### Teacher's feedback

Carol, you wrote a piece of good work. You managed to recount your drama with rich vocabulary and your feelings. To achieve a higher grade, you are advised to make sense of the setting of your adventure 'office building', where study room is less possibly found. You might say you visit that building with more sense-making reasons such as experiencing clerical work in a career outing.

You have the foundations of a good story here. Now, try to add some of the senses in terms of what you experienced. What did you see, hear, touch and smell? What did you and the others you were with say to each other? What does someone who has fainted look like? How did the security guard find you? Provide the reader with more details.



### [14] 4C Yuen Wing Ho

### **How to Stay Healthy**



Good morning Principal, Teachers and fellow students,

I am Chris Loh, the President of the school Sports Club. As part of our school's Healthy Living Campaign, I have been asked to give a speech suggesting two ways you can become healthier.

First, we need to exercise regularly. Exercise can burn calories and keep our bodies fit. Nowadays, many people eat junk food and seldom exercise. Many people who live this way become fat and unhappy. By doing more exercise, we can reduce stress and enjoy life more. We relax while playing sports. We can breathe more fresh air to improve our health. While playing sports, we can listen to soft music because some studies have found that listening to soft music can make us feel better when we are stressed.

It is important to eat healthier too. We can follow the food pyramid to eat more vegetables and fruit. Vegetables provide various vitamins and dietary fiber. If we do not eat vegetables, we may get constipated. Also, we cannot eat too much junk food because it contains a lot of salt and oil. These ingredients are

bad for our livers. We can eat more dairy products because they are rich in calcium, which strengthens our teeth and bones. Lack of nutrition may make us weaker and can also block us from fighting many diseases. An unhealthy lifestyle can cause students to be absent from class and miss important lessons.

Finally, I hope everyone can become healthier and improve their health. Thank you for your listening.

( image source : https://adiahealth.com/wp-content/uploads/what-is-a-healthy-lifestyle.png )



### Teacher's feedback

Wing, your speech is well-written and comprehensive. In the introduction, you included such key elements as greeting, self-introduction and aim of your speech. To achieve higher scores, you had better focus on elaboration. For instance, you mentioned a term 'constipation' but you did not explain to your audience what it is. The majority of the audience, who are mostly secondary school students, might not understand the term 'constipation'. Therefore, you should elaborate it by giving examples such as its outcomes.

I would encourage you to give some specific examples of activities/exercises that aid health.



### [15] 4D Xu Sin Long

### A personal email

Hi John,

How are you getting on? I haven't been writing for ages. I have had some problems recently. You know my parents got divorced when I was five. Now, my mum has a boyfriend called Tom. She said that they will get married in three months. I'm worried and I really don't know what to do.



I don't know where I will live when they get married. They may move away and I may have to stay alone in our own flat. If they move away, I will be lonely. No one will take care of me. I will have to cook for myself Also, I might lack self-control and play all the time and neglecting my studies. I am worried about my DSE. I think I cannot get good results on my DSE courses if I can't control myself.

As well, I don't know if Tom will still be nice to me – or my mum - after they marry. I am also concerned my mum will love Tom more than me.

I hope you can give me some good advice. I need your help. I feel so helpless.

Yours, Chris

### (image source:

https://torontoweddingchapel.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/just-married-again.jpg)



### Teacher's feedback

A very good closing paragraph which shows how helpless you are.

Fluent in general.



## Editorial Board:

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Editor : Mr. Anderson

*March 2020* 

