

IBDP English B

Our IBDP English B SL/HL comprehensively supports the DP syllabus from the first examination from 2020.



Key Features

Activity

Read the example email carefully and analyse it. Answer the questions below and support your answers with examples from the text.

- How does the email start?
- What do you think of the opening salutation?
- Is it evident that the email is addressed to a specific person? Give examples.
- What is the focus of the email?
- What is the tone of the email?
- What is the register of the email? Find some examples.
- What do you think of the closing salutation?

Hide solution

• How does the email start?

The email starts with the standard heading of from (sender), to (recipient), date (when email is being sent) and subject (what will you talk about in the email). It is really important to include these details!

• What do you think of the opening salutation?

The opening salutation here is quite informal 'Hey Matt'; as the email is being sent to a friend, it is acceptable and even expected that the opening salutation would be quite informal. Of course, the opening salutation can sometimes be more formal if you are actually writing a formal email. For example, if you are writing to a professor or your boss, you would address them as 'Dear Professor' or 'Dear Mr/Mrs.' When writing to someone you do not know personally, you use 'To whom it may concern'. This would usually be followed by a formal 'I hope my email finds you well' rather than 'How've you been?'

Kognity IBDP English B offers an array of activities that can be used for formative assessment and summative assessment.

Sections and subtopics contain tips that explain and assist students in developing strategies for success in Kognity's English B.



Grammar tip

The passive voice

What does the passive voice look like? Consider the following sentences from the radio programme and the formation and use of the passive – why do you think these sentences employ the passive voice?

- Are there certain words that **should be avoided** when we are talking about indigenous groups in Canada?
- Sometimes, they **might also be referred to** as First Peoples.
- I think there's an issue with the usage of the term 'Indian'; even though this **is still commonly used** in legal documents.
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) **was adopted** by the General Assembly on the 13th of September, 2007.
- A possible theory that **has been suggested** by many activists is the lack of proper investigation due to police bias.
- **It has been brought** to the media's attention that some disappearances have not been taken seriously.
- The work that the activists do **should be applauded**.

How is it formed?

- The passive form of a verb is created by combining a form of the verb 'to be' and the past participle of the main verb.

For example:

Active voice: 'The General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the 13th of September, 2007.'

Exercise 1

Read the following article that discusses some reasons why people migrate, and then answer the questions that follow.

Extract

Explainer: What makes people migrate?

December 19, 2013

¹ Why do people migrate? At first glance it seems reasonable to assume that most people move hoping to find better conditions or opportunities elsewhere, such as jobs, higher wages, safety or freedom of expression. This is the **implicit** assumption underlying the most popular theories of migration.

² But while few researchers would contest that most migrants have good reasons to move, this does not really help us understand what really drives migration. To say that most people migrate to find better opportunities is somehow stating the obvious. Migration is seen as a (temporary) response to differences in development between people's own countries and a desired destination, that will decline as wages and conditions converge. But this view ignores that migration has been a constant factor in the history of humankind and can therefore not be reduced to a temporary by-product of capitalist development.

³ These models fail to give insight into the social, economic and political processes that have created the wage and opportunity gaps to which migration is supposedly a response, and are actually at odds with what is seen in real-life migration patterns. For instance, most migrants do not move from the poorest to the wealthiest countries, and the poorest countries tend to have lower levels of emigration than middle-income and wealthier countries.

Kognity IBDP English B is filled with current and engaging topics that provide multicultural perspectives and focus on international mindedness.

TOK is brought to the forefront with useful prompts and reminders that can be found consistently throughout Kognity's English B.



Theory of Knowledge

Have you ever thought about how different countries are concerned with environmental issues in varying ways? For the governments of many countries, their preoccupation with environmental policies depends greatly on their priorities and mostly on how the economy could be impacted by environmental policies. As for individuals, they also perceive environmental issues in a dynamic manner that depends on differing personal value systems.

- Why do you think governments have different approaches to issues surrounding the environment?
- To what extent does the role of authority impact the decision-making process in the area of natural sciences?
- To what extent are environmental issues the responsibility of governments? In what ways are individuals responsible?
- How does your personal value system influence your perception of your roles and responsibilities towards the environment?
- How do different perspectives enhance or hinder the advancement of knowledge in the area of natural sciences?

