

KELPA Writing Scoring Guide

Sample 1:

Vocabulary: 2 - Vocabulary is too limited to merit a score of 3, although there are no usage errors. The student used the same words and phrases repeatedly.

Sentence Fluency: 2 - The same sentence pattern is used for all sentences. A lack of variety in sentence structure keeps the paper from earning a 3.

Grammar: 3 - There are no verb errors; however, a lack of variety of verb tenses makes this a 3 instead of a 4.

Mechanics: 3 - Capitalization and punctuation is correct, although there is no variety in punctuation and no attempts at the use of commas, quotation marks, etc. There are a few spelling errors. Paragraph formation is not attempted.

Organization and Development: 1 - Writing consists of repetitive sentences. Few details are given. Many sentences are restatements of previously stated ideas.

Sample 2:

Vocabulary: 3 - Vocabulary is adequate, but is not vivid enough to earn a score of 4. There are a few terms or phrases that would not typically be used by a native English speaker. (Examples: "throwing water" instead of "splashing", "puddles of water")

Sentence Fluency: 3 - A variety of sentence structures, including compound and complex sentences, are included, although sometimes with errors. Some awkward constructions keep the writing from scoring a 4. There are a few phrases that would not be used by a native English speaker. (Examples: "It was summer season..." or "The party was about summer just summer.")

Grammar: 4 - There is some variety of verb tenses. There are no errors in subject/verb agreement or verb tense.

Mechanics: 4 - The paper earns a 4 because paragraph indentation is done at the beginning and there are few errors in spelling, capitalization and punctuation.

Organization and Development: 3 - The writing describes events related to a single topic, but does not include a clear sequence or transitions.

Sample 3:

Vocabulary: 1 - Writing contains only isolated words or phrases.

Sentence Fluency: 2 - One simple sentence structure is used. Most of the writing is disconnected words or phrases.

Grammar: 1 - Only 1 verb is used, and it includes a subject/verb agreement error.

Mechanics: 1 - Very little punctuation or capitalization is attempted, and includes some errors. Only simple words are written, with some spelling errors.

Organization and Development: 1 - Writing is primarily isolated words and phrases with some attempts at a simple sentence. No main idea can be determined, so writing cannot earn a score of 2.

Sample 4:

Vocabulary: 3 - Vocabulary is adequate, but not expressive enough to earn a 4.

Sentence Fluency: 3 - Sentences are varied and compound sentences are used. There are run-on sentences and some awkward sentence constructions that keep the paper from earning a 4.

Grammar: 3 - There are some errors in verb tense formation. The errors do not interfere with meaning.

Mechanics: 2 - There are frequent errors in punctuation, including missing quotation marks and commas used incorrectly. There are errors in capitalization and some misspellings.

Organization and Development: 3 - The writing does have a clear focus and sequence of events. Supporting details are simple, and not all events in the sequence are well developed. Transitions are not used well.