

# B2 ENGLISH: BUILDING BLOCKS

WRITING & SPEAKING GUIDE

## Inglés Málaga

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Janette O'Carroll

Director

Inglés Málaga

[www.inglesmalaga.com](http://www.inglesmalaga.com)

[Janette.inglesmalaga@gmail.com](mailto:Janette.inglesmalaga@gmail.com)

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## **B2 English Building Blocks: Guidelines Writing and Speaking Support**

**Please note** that the following information should be used as a **guide**. You have to make your own decisions about what to use based on your interests, your strengths, and any weaknesses. You can make sentences easier or more complex depending on your knowledge.

The most important thing to remember is that you **must have a very clear idea about the specific evaluation and assessment criteria**, and **make your own independent decisions** based on this knowledge.

**This guide will give you advice on:**

1. What **grammatical structures**, and **language functions** you **should seriously consider** using in your **writing and speaking**
2. Information on how to make your written work and your speaking tasks **more interesting and engaging** for the **reader**, and the **listener**, including ideas on the following:
  - a. Expressing **general statements** and giving **personal opinions**
  - b. Applying vocabulary, expressions, and idioms
  - c. Using adverbial phrases and linkers
3. Information on how to create **structure** and **ensure** strong **coherence** by using appropriate connectors and linkers

### **Context:**

This guide uses the following topics to illustrate different structures:

1. The Environment and environmental issues
2. Health, food & eating habits

Nevertheless, the content and structures of this guide can be applied to any subject or topic. However, this guide is not designed to support people who are using technical or specialised English, for example business English.

## 1: GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES & LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS

Minimum Grammatical Range	
Present Tenses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>It's</b> a sad fact of modern life that more people <b>are interested in</b> <i>gadgets</i> and Facebook than they <b>are</b> in politics and <i>environmental</i> issues.</li> <li>2. <i>Despite</i> our <i>advanced</i> technological progress, many people <b>believe</b> we are still a long way off from <b>finding</b> any real solutions to our environmental crisis.</li> <li>3. My parents <b>are involved in</b> environmental activism and they <b>often attend</b> Greenpeace demonstrations.</li> <li>4. <i>Thankfully</i>, the Spanish government <b>is taking</b> the issue of sustainable energy much more seriously.</li> <li>5. <b>It's</b> a <i>well-known</i> fact that global warming <b>is</b> one of the world's most serious environmental problems.</li> <li>6. Global waste production <b>is growing</b> in volume and toxicity and, <i>frighteningly</i>, nobody, as of yet, has come up with a suitable solution to waste reduction or waste disposal.</li> <li>7. <b>Recycling, using</b> energy-efficient appliances and <b>reducing</b> waste are <i>by far the easiest measures</i> that the general public <i>should adopt in order to</i> protect and prevent <i>further</i> damage to the environment.</li> </ol>
Past Tenses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I <b>have been recycling</b> paper, glass and plastic for over 10 years and <b>last year</b> I <b>bought</b> a garden composter to help reduce my organic waste.</li> <li>2. I <b>remember</b> when recycling bins <b>were</b> first introduced to my local area and nobody <b>had a clue</b> what to do as the local authorities <b>hadn't properly explained</b> how to use them.</li> <li>3. My local environmental group <b>used to plant</b> trees in local areas <i>until</i> their funding <b>was cut</b> by the local government.</li> <li>4. Before last year, no one in my community association <b>had raised</b> the issue of our waste disposal problem.</li> </ol>
Futures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Next year I'm going to start</b> recycling more.</li> <li>2. <i>Terrifyingly, according to environmentalists</i>, <b>by 2050</b> we <b>will have destroyed</b> more than 50% of the Amazon rainforest.</li> <li>3. <i>It is said that</i> <b>by 2020</b> there <b>will be</b> a 15% increase in greenhouse emissions; a horrific statistic considering <i>we are supposed to be reducing our carbon footprint</i>.</li> <li>4. <i>It has recently been alleged that</i> <b>by 2020</b> there <b>will be</b> a 20% <i>decrease</i> in the number of criminal cases <i>filed against</i> environmental groups.</li> </ol>
Conditionals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>C1: If</b> the cost of fuel <b>increases</b> again, I'm <b>going to set up</b> a car pool system at work.</li> <li>2. <b>C1 Unless</b> (if not) the cost of public transport <b>reduces</b>, I'm <b>going to go on using</b> my car.</li> <li>3. <b>C2: If I worked</b> for the government, I <b>would decrease</b> the cost of public transport, increase City Park and Ride schemes and finally, develop better urban bike lanes.</li> <li>4. <b>C1: If we continue</b> to <i>cut down</i> so many trees, we <b>will not only destroy</b> our natural heritage <i>but also endanger</i> a lot of our national wildlife.</li> <li>5. <b>C3: If I had known</b> how much cheaper it was to use energy-saving bulbs, I <b>would have bought</b> some earlier.</li> <li>6. <i>Personally speaking</i>, <b>if</b> the government <b>had</b> severely <b>fined</b> multi-national companies earlier for illegal waste dumping in rivers, I believe we <b>wouldn't have</b> the same contamination levels that we have today. (mixed conditional C3 + C2)</li> <li>7. If we <b>didn't</b> have recycling bins, I <b>would have complained</b> to the local council years ago. (mixed conditional C2 + C3)</li> </ol>