

Word Usage Exercise Example Answers

DRS Unit 1

Here are examples of what your teacher thinks are good answers for the first five questions in this unit's word usage exercise. (The questions are answered as if the year 2000 were still in the future.)

Before you write your answers for this exercise, also read "Avoiding Lexical Errors," in E>G, Writing.

Note:

- The language of the question is included in the first sentence of the answer. Reiterating the question in the first sentence 1) will help you to be sure that you understood the question accurately, and 2) it will help the reader understand your answer more easily.
- The main point (the answer) is presented in the first sentence, before the explanation.
- The answer and explanation are concise. Concise means fully but briefly ("to the point").
- These are REAL answers, not just related sentences from the reading that have been mechanically copied, not meaningless or nonsense sentences.
- Pay close attention to articles and prepositions.
- There are no Technical Features violations (see w18-19).

1. explode - signal - growing pain

The rate of increase in the world's population is not slowing yet, so there won't be fewer social problems. It is now exploding, and this exploding population signals even more growing pains for already crowded areas.

2. forecast - 2000

It certainly could have been found in the United Nations study that is reported in the article that we read. The photo shows a lot of people packed into a sardine can, and this illustrates the report's forecast that, by the year 2000, the world's population will grow by 2 billion.

3. trouble - increase - project

Actually, the photo illustrates the main point of the article. The article's dual main point is that world's population is increasing, and that, even more troubling than the increasing number of inhabitants are the projections of where they will be concentrated.

4. 80 - less developed - compare - 70

It's not logical to say that the industrialized West will lose its present population majority. The industrialized West does not have a population majority at present—it has only 30 percent now—and it can not lose something that it does not have. The UN report discussed in the DRS article forecasts that by the new millennium nearly 80 percent of all people will live in less developed countries, and that this compares with 70 percent today.

5. metropolis - concentrate - migration

Rural areas in the Third World won't actually disappear; they will change. We can say that metropolises in the Third World will become centers of concentrated urban poverty because of a flood of migration from rural areas, but this doesn't mean that many rural areas will actually disappear.