WRITE ENGLISH GBR

Recognizing Cultural Writing Differences

Use this worksheet to practice what is discussed in

- **Information Sheet 17a:** *How a German Background Might Influence Written Academic English*

Information Sheet 17a contains seven factors that might play a role when Germans write in English

1) Responsibility for text comprehension
2) Use of noun synonyms
3) Use of digressions
4) Use of meta-text
5) Structure of sentences
6) Length of paragraphs
7) Symmetry in a text (parallelism)

Task: Identifying and Solving the Issue

Below are six sentences that have issues related to one of the above factors. Identify the issue and re-write the sentence to avoid it. The first one has been done for you. The sentences only cover factors numbered 2,3,4,7.

	Sentence	Factor
1.	Soils in the region are affected by both the clothing industry and by its upstream supplier sector. <u>Possible Answers</u> *Soils in the region are affected by both the clothing industry and its upstream supplier sector.* <u>Or</u> *Soils in the region are affected both by the clothing industry and by its upstream supplier sector.*	7
2.	The findings are divided into three parts: First a general description of … is given followed by … . This information is used to understand the subsequent statistical analysis. Both the background information and the results of the statistical analysis are used in the following discussion, which investigates … .	
3.	Crop types can be investigated using satellite remote sensing equipment. However, optical approaches are unreliable because ….	
4.	Five of the tests were negative, but positive results were achieved in the other three tests.	

5.	The two main working areas for migrants (Xianwe and Guanxi) not only differ in their building and economic structures but also regarding the migrant communities that chose to settle there. In Guanxi, the predominant migrant group (70%) was from Camerun followed by Nigerian migrants (10%). In comparison, Xianwe has a more heterogeneous migrant structure.	
6.	Rainfall can be associated with cold fronts or with convergence lines that appear ahead of a cold front. Frontal systems appear more often during the winter season but also appear in the summer. Previous studies have compared rainfall associated with fronts to rainfall not associated with fronts. This study uses these rainfall differences to ….	

Possible Answers – your answers might differ

Sentence	Factor	Possible re-write
2	4	*The findings are divided into three parts. First a general description of xxx is given followed by … . Second, this information is used to understand the subsequent statistical analysis. Then, third, both the background information and the result so the statistical analysis are used in the discussion, which investigates … .*
3	2	*Crop types can be investigated using satellite remote sensing equipment. However, this equipment is unreliable because …*
4	7	*Five tests were negative, but the other three tests were positive.*
5	7	*The two main working areas for migrants (Guanxi and Xianwe) differ not only in their building and economic structures but also in the migrant communities that chose to settle there. In Guanxi, the predominant migrant group was from Cameroon (70%), followed by Nigerian migrants (10%). In comparison, Xianwe has a more heterogeneous migrant structure.*
6	3	*Rainfall can be associated with cold fronts or with convergence lines that often appear ahead of a cold front. Previous studies have compared rainfall associated with fronts to rainfall not associated with fronts. This study uses these rainfall differences to ….*

The list of three items is easier for the reader to follow if *First …, second …, third …* are used

Repeating the word *equipment* makes the text easier to follow.

Neither the details on the two areas nor the *not only … but also …* phrase were in parallel

The 2nd sentence in the original text was a digression. It disturbed the flow of the text.