



CAE Writing

A Competition Entry

Look at this question from part 2 of the CAE Writing paper.  
You see this competition in an English language magazine.

If you really want to learn English you should get a job in an English-speaking country, speak to the people and travel around.

Do you agree with this opinion? Give us your reasons why or why not. The best answer will win a ticket to London.

Write your **competition entry** (220-260 words)

As a first step, you need to make a plan, in which you make brief notes about points you want to include, like this:

- In support of the opinion: full immersion in the language, hear English every day
- Against the opinion: few jobs enable you to travel around, in many jobs the language you use may be restricted to a few set phrases, loneliness may lead you to seek out co-nationals, without a good grammatical basis the learning process is slow and tiring
- Conclusion: can be positive as long as the points against are taken into consideration.

Here is an example answer:

Living the Language

It is often said that the best way to learn a foreign language is to go to a country where it is spoken. Living and working in the country enables you to assimilate the language quickly and painlessly. But is this really true?

In support of this view it is certainly the case that living in the country gives the opportunity for a full immersion in the language. You are surrounded by it all your waking hours; on TV, on public transport, in the street. You hear a variety of accents and styles and this must surely aid progress.

On the other hand, few jobs give you much opportunity to travel around. It is far more likely that you will find yourself stuck in a shop or a café, where the language you use may be restricted to a few set phrases. In addition, loneliness often leads newcomers to seek out co-nationals, to create a comfort zone of familiar habits and attitudes. Finally, without a good grammatical basis the learning process can be a long and tiring one.

In conclusion therefore, I would say that getting a job in a foreign country can be an excellent way to improve your comprehension and fluency, but only under certain circumstances. You should first try to acquire a sound grammatical basis on which to build, look for a job which brings you into daily contact with other people and make every effort to integrate into the local culture. If you do all this, you will soon be speaking like a native!