

Writing to Discuss

Read through this balanced argument on whether school summer holidays should be shortened.

Modal Verbs	Adverbials	Relative Clauses	Conjunctions
Modal verbs indicate degrees of possibility within the discussion.	Adverbials help to support cohesion within the balanced argument.	Relative clauses add in details which help to support the discussion.	Conjunctions help to make links between the different arguments.

Should School Summer Holidays Be Shorter?

With school summer holidays in England lasting for an average of six weeks, questions are often raised about the suitability of this time frame. Are children negatively affected by such a prolonged break in their education? If so, should school summer holidays be shorter?

One of the main arguments for the shortening of school summer holidays stems from the idea that a break from formal education can disrupt children's progress within the classroom. This reasoning carries some weight when you consider the days needed to readjust to a classroom routine after being away for six weeks. One study, which looked at the effects of the six week summer holiday on children's learning, suggested that it can take children at least a week to fully adjust after returning back to school. If true, this could mean that vital hours, which might otherwise be spent preparing children for exams or life outside of school, are lost.

On the other hand, many people argue that the benefits of an extended break far outweigh any potential negatives. For example, although not spending time in a classroom, the summer holidays can be educationally beneficial for children. Not least is the chance to develop social skills, which stay with children long after they've left school, by spending quality time with family and peers. Some people even go further to suggest that extending the summer holidays past six weeks may prove even more beneficial. In fact, compared to other countries, England has a relatively short summer holiday with some countries staying away from school for over ten weeks.

To conclude, there are strong arguments both for and against shortening school summer holidays. What do you think?



Writing to Discuss Answers

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