



Food and Eating Habits

Informal email: trying a new cafe

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes a cafe a good place to meet friends?
2. What food problems can happen when eating out?
3. Would you try a new dish or order something safe? Why?

Exercise 5 at a glance

Write an informal email to a friend.

Cover all the prompts.

Develop ideas with details and reactions.

Use relaxed, natural language.

Make the email flow naturally.

2. Exam-style task

You recently visited a new cafe. You liked the food, but there was a small problem with your order.

Write an email to a friend about it.

In your email you should:

- say what food you tried and liked
- describe the problem with your order
- suggest going there together

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model email

Subject: I found our new snack place

Hi Omar,

How's life? Did you ever try making those pancakes you were talking about, or did that plan fall apart?

Anyway, I tried the new cafe beside the library yesterday, and I think I've found our next snack place!

I ordered a chicken wrap and a mango smoothie. The wrap was much fresher than the ones near school, and the smoothie was so good that I nearly ordered another one. The cafe itself was cosy too, with small tables by the window and a quiet corner where we could revise.

The only problem was that they mixed up my order at first and gave me a cheese sandwich instead. I was about to complain, but the waiter noticed straight away and sorted it out, so it was fine.

Anyway, we should go after our English lesson on Thursday if you're free. You could try the pancakes because they looked amazing. Honestly, the whole place is right up your street.

Write back soon,

Daisy

P.S. I am still thinking about that smoothie.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and tone

Work with the model email. You do not need to copy long answers. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Email structure	Find the subject line, greeting, opening chat, main message, plan and sign-off.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer say what food they tried and liked?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer mention a problem with the order?	
Content point 3	Where does the writer suggest going to the cafe together?	
Informal audience	Find two places where the email sounds friendly or relaxed, such as a contraction, exclamation mark or chatty phrase.	
Development	Find one extra detail, reason or reaction that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the prompts

The prompts can guide your grammar choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful grammar	Why it fits	Example from the model
what food the writer tried and liked	comparatives + so...that	The writer compares food and shows a strong reaction.	much fresher than... / so good that...
the problem with the order	was about to + verb	The writer describes an interrupted action.	was about to... / but the waiter noticed...
the plan to go together	could / should for suggestions	The writer makes a friendly plan.	We should go... / You could try...

6. Make it flow

Read the informal linking phrases. Underline one you could use for each purpose.

Job	Useful informal linkers
move into the topic	Anyway, / Anyhow, / I tried... / I think I've found...
add detail or reaction	The wrap was... / so good that... / The cafe itself was... / too
introduce a problem	The only problem was... / at first / I was about to... but... / straight away / so...
make a plan	Anyway, we should... / if you're free / You could... / right up your street

7. Vocabulary and useful phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe the cafe	chicken wrap / mango smoothie / tables by the window / quiet corner	
describe a problem	mixed up my order / about to complain / noticed straight away / sorted it out	
sound informal	How's life? / plan fall apart / next snack place / right up your street	
make a plan	after our lesson / if you're free / try the pancakes	
upgrade with adverbs	much / nearly / at first / straight away / still	

8. Plan your own email

Use the same task, or change the details to a similar situation about a cafe.

Prompt	My idea	Useful language	Link to next part
food and cafe			
problem with my order			
plan with my friend			
opening / ending			

