



Digital Life and Technology

Article: should students use AI tools for schoolwork?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Which digital tools help students learn?
2. When can technology make schoolwork less useful?
3. How should students use AI tools responsibly?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an article, often for a school magazine.

Use a catchy title and opening hook.

Develop ideas with reasons and examples.

Use a semi-formal, engaging style.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether students should use AI tools for schoolwork. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'AI can explain difficult ideas in a different way.'
'It can help with planning and checking grammar.'

'Some students may copy answers without thinking.'
'We still need to learn how to solve problems ourselves.'

Now write an article for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model article

AI at School: Helper or Shortcut?

Should students use AI when they are doing schoolwork? It is a question many students are already asking, especially as digital tools become part of everyday life. Used carefully, AI can be helpful, but it should not replace real learning.

On one hand, AI tools can support students who feel stuck. They can explain a difficult idea in simpler language, suggest a plan for a piece of writing or help students spot grammar mistakes. This can make revision feel less stressful, especially when students are working alone at home.

However, there is an obvious danger. If students copy whole answers, they may finish the task without understanding it. Over time, this could weaken their confidence and problem-solving skills. Teachers also need to know what work students can do independently.

In my view, students should be allowed to use AI as a guide, not as a replacement for effort. Schools should teach clear rules and show examples of acceptable use. That way, technology can help students think better, rather than think less.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and register

Work with the model article. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Article structure	Find the title, opening question, benefits, warning and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain how AI can help students?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain the risk of copying?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest a responsible way to use AI?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds engaging but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one example, result or warning that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

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

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
how AI helps	modal verbs + examples	You are explaining possible uses without sounding too absolute.	AI tools can support students / can explain a difficult idea
risks of AI	conditional + consequence language	You are warning what may happen if students misuse it.	If students copy whole answers / this could weaken...
your view	balanced recommendation	You are giving a clear but careful opinion.	as a guide, not as a replacement / Schools should teach clear rules

6. Build an engaging article

Notice how article phrases help you interest the reader and organise ideas clearly.

Job	Useful article phrases
hook the reader	Should students use AI...? / Helper or shortcut? / Could technology make us better learners?
add context	many students are already asking / digital tools are now part of... / It is no longer a future issue.
introduce benefits	On one hand... / can support students who feel stuck / Used carefully, it can...
show warning	However, there is an obvious danger. / If students copy... / The risk is that...
show result	Over time, this could... / rather than think less / This may weaken...
finish with a view	In my view... / Schools should teach... / AI should be used as a guide, not...

7. Vocabulary and useful article 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 tools	AI tools / digital tools / planning / checking grammar	
describe benefits	feel stuck / explain difficult ideas / make revision less stressful	
describe risks	copy whole answers / without understanding / weaken confidence	
sound article-like	helper or shortcut? / not replace real learning	
upgrade ideas	use responsibly / clear rules / independently	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another technology issue at school.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
how technology helps		
risks / other side		
final view / suggestion		

