



The Natural World

Article: should schools spend more time learning outdoors?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What can students learn outside the classroom?
2. How can nature affect mood or concentration?
3. What problems might outdoor lessons cause?

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 schools should spend more time learning outdoors. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Outdoor lessons make learning feel real.'

'Nature helps people feel calmer.'

'Bad weather could ruin the plan.'

'Some subjects are easier to teach indoors.'

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

Learning Beyond Four Walls

Can a lesson feel different just because it happens outside? Many students spend most of the day under bright classroom lights, so outdoor learning could offer a refreshing change.

The natural world can make learning feel real. Instead of only reading about plants, weather or pollution, students can observe them directly. Outdoor activities may also improve mood and concentration, especially for students who find sitting still for long periods difficult or who learn better through practical experience.

However, outdoor learning is not suitable for every lesson. Bad weather, noise and safety concerns can make it hard to organise. Some subjects also need screens, specialist equipment or a quiet room, so it would be unrealistic to move everything outside.

In my view, schools should include more outdoor learning when it genuinely improves the lesson. Science observations, local geography tasks and creative writing walks could all work well. The classroom is important, but sometimes the best examples are waiting outside the door.

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, hook, benefits, contrast and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain how outdoor learning helps?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why it may not suit every lesson?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest when outdoor learning should be used?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds engaging but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one example, reason or condition 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
benefits outdoors	examples + effect language	You are explaining how outdoor learning changes the experience.	observe them directly / improve mood and concentration
practical limits	contrast + need language	You are showing that some lessons need indoor resources.	However... not suitable for every lesson / need screens
your view	condition language	You are suggesting outdoor learning only when useful.	when it genuinely improves the lesson / could all work well

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	Can a lesson feel different outside? / Learning beyond four walls / What can nature teach us?
add context	spend most of the day... / outdoor learning could offer... / under bright classroom lights
introduce benefits	can make learning feel real / Instead of only reading... / may also improve...
show contrast	However... / not suitable for every lesson / it would be unrealistic to...
show examples	science observations / local geography tasks / creative writing walks
finish with a view	In my view... / when it genuinely improves... / waiting outside the door

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 nature	natural world / plants / weather / pollution	
describe learning	observe directly / outdoor activities / creative writing walks	
describe problems	bad weather / noise / safety concerns / specialist equipment	
sound article-like	beyond four walls / outside the door	
upgrade ideas	refreshing change / genuinely improves / concentration	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another natural world topic.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
benefits of outdoor learning		
limits / other side		
final view / suggestion		

