

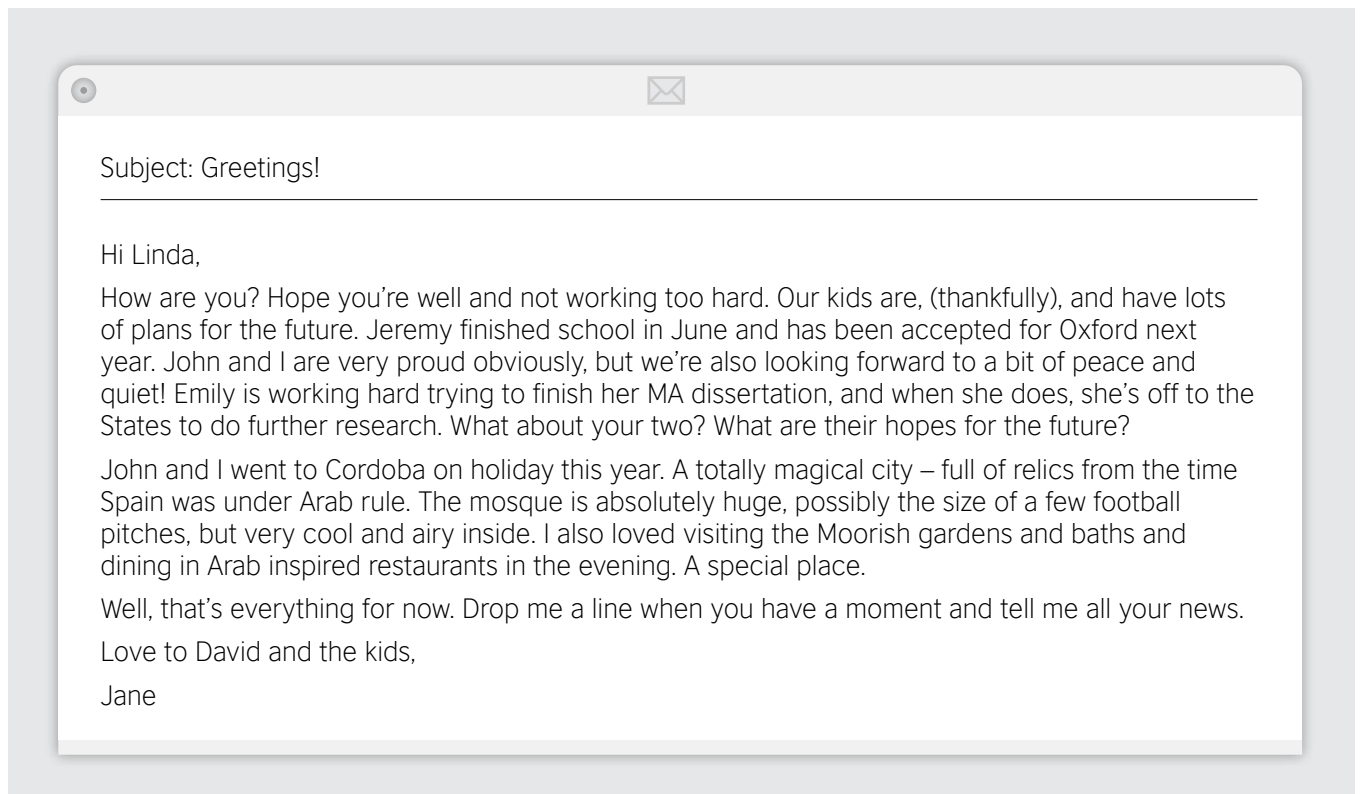
Lead-in

- 1 How much do you know about the cultural cities of Europe? Try this quick quiz with your group.
- Which city is known for having a small statue of a mermaid in the harbour?
 - With 2.3 million visitors per year, this is Spain's most popular attraction. What is it and what city is it in?
 - This iconic structure was originally designed to be temporary, but was saved due to its potential as a radio antenna.
 - This building was the site of the execution of three queens and is now a popular tourist destination beside the river Thames.
 - Big Ben is a famous London landmark, but what exactly is Big Ben?
- 2 Which of the following activities do you like to do when you visit a city? What is good about doing these activities in different cities?
- Visit museums and art galleries?
 - Go shopping?
 - Try out the local cuisine in cafés and bars?
 - All of the above?

Input

Read this email and answer the questions.

- What information does she give in the first and last paragraphs? Why?
- Does the type of holiday she describes appeal to you? Why? / Why not?



Subject: Greetings!

Hi Linda,

How are you? Hope you're well and not working too hard. Our kids are, (thankfully), and have lots of plans for the future. Jeremy finished school in June and has been accepted for Oxford next year. John and I are very proud obviously, but we're also looking forward to a bit of peace and quiet! Emily is working hard trying to finish her MA dissertation, and when she does, she's off to the States to do further research. What about your two? What are their hopes for the future?

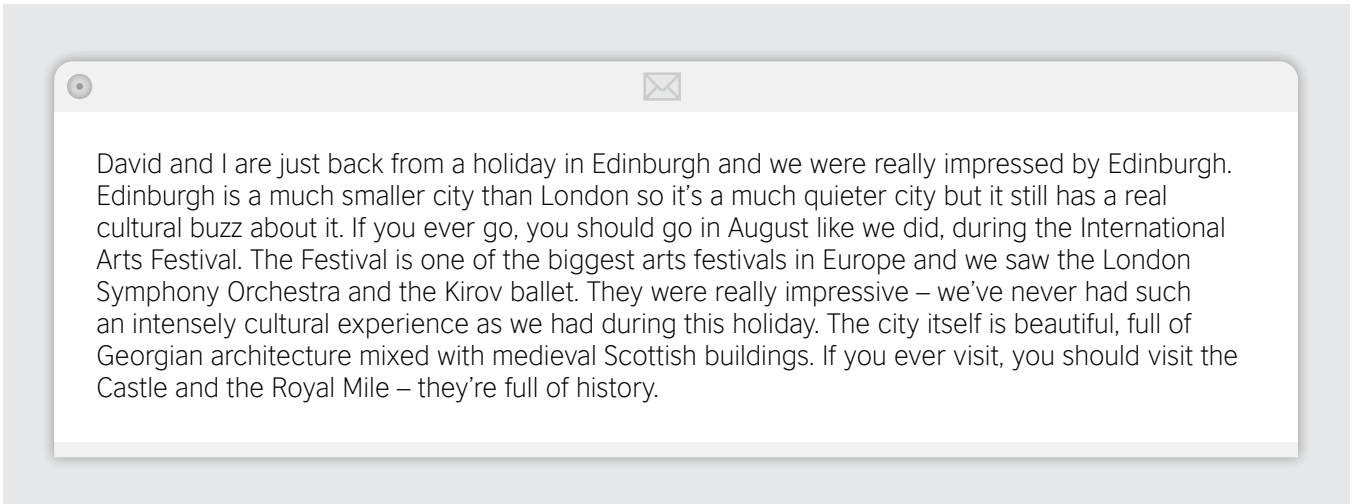
John and I went to Cordoba on holiday this year. A totally magical city – full of relics from the time Spain was under Arab rule. The mosque is absolutely huge, possibly the size of a few football pitches, but very cool and airy inside. I also loved visiting the Moorish gardens and baths and dining in Arab inspired restaurants in the evening. A special place.

Well, that's everything for now. Drop me a line when you have a moment and tell me all your news.

Love to David and the kids,
Jane

Language focus

This is part of Linda’s reply, but she has a problem with her language. Underline any parts of the text you think are problematic and decide why.



2 Here are some ways of avoiding repetition. Look at Jane’s email in *Input* and identify any examples of these techniques by underlining them in the text.

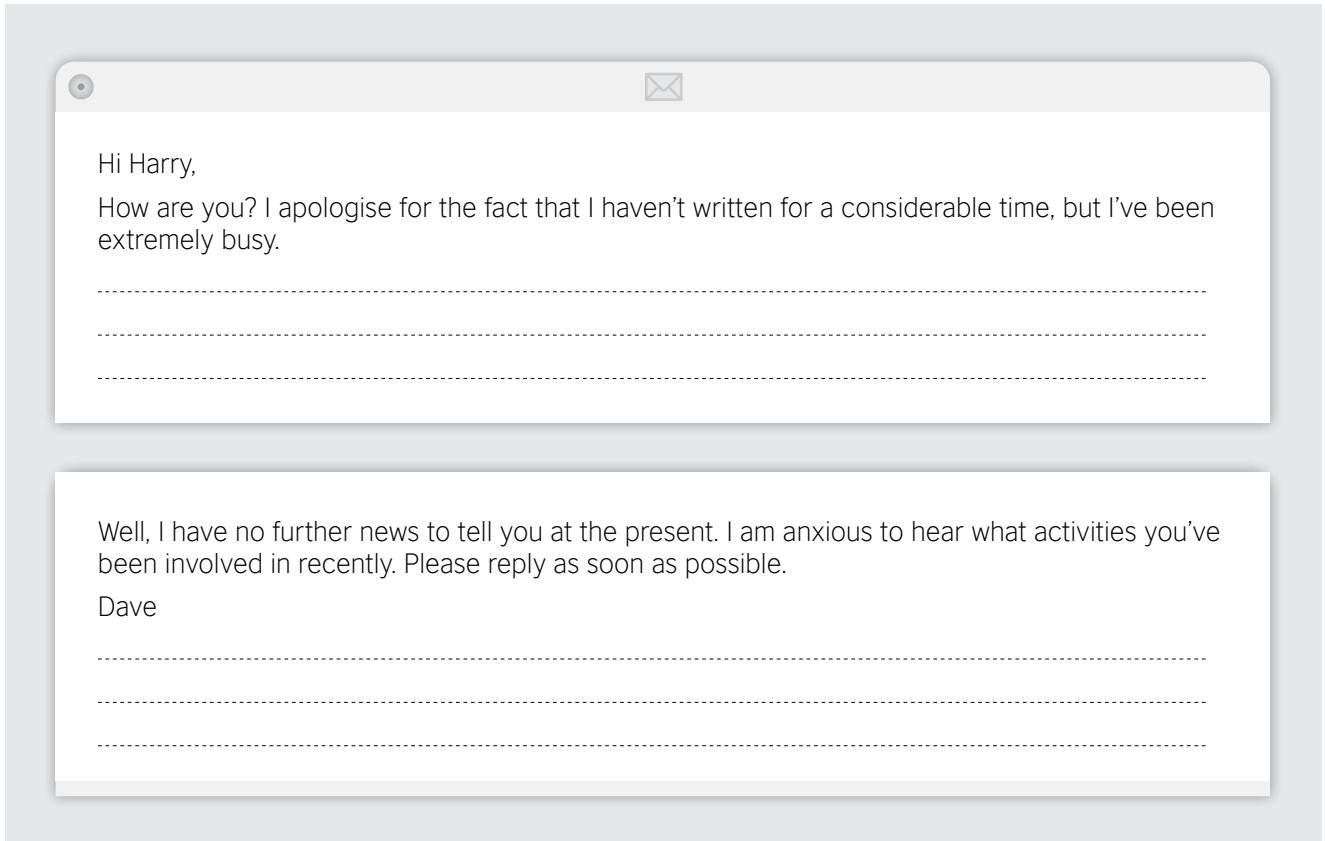
- a using pronouns
- b using an auxiliary verb to replace a full verb
- c using alternative words with the same or similar meaning
- d ellipsis (i.e. omitting words)

3 Here are some sentences from Linda’s reply. Try to improve them using some of the techniques from exercise 2.

- a David and I are just back from a holiday in Edinburgh and we were really impressed by Edinburgh.
.....
- b Edinburgh is a much smaller city than London so it’s a much quieter city but it still has a real cultural buzz about it.
.....
- c If you ever go, you should go in August like we did, during the International Arts Festival.
.....
- d The Festival is one of the biggest arts festivals in Europe and we saw the London Symphony Orchestra and the Kirov ballet.
.....
- e They were really impressive – we’ve never had such an intensely cultural experience as we had during this holiday.
.....
- f If you ever visit, you should visit the Castle and the Royal Mile – they’re full of history.
.....

4 Read these extracts from the first and last paragraphs of an email to a friend. Rewrite them in a more appropriate informal style using the words and phrases below.

ages what you've been up to sorry write soon that's all for now really dying to



The image shows a screenshot of an email interface. The top part of the email contains the text: "Hi Harry, How are you? I apologise for the fact that I haven't written for a considerable time, but I've been extremely busy." Below this text are three horizontal dotted lines for rewriting. The bottom part of the email contains the text: "Well, I have no further news to tell you at the present. I am anxious to hear what activities you've been involved in recently. Please reply as soon as possible. Dave". Below this text are three horizontal dotted lines for rewriting.

Task

- 1 You are going to write an informal email to a friend, giving your news and asking for theirs, and telling them about a city you recently visited. Your email should be 160–180 words long.
- 2 Work with a partner. Think of a city you both know and make notes about the content of your second paragraph.
- 3 Look at the assessment criteria. Write your email.

Assessment criteria

- The email contains personal news and questions to the reader, and a description of a visit to a city which highlights the personal significance of events and experiences.
- The information is organised logically into appropriate paragraphs.
- The language is suitably informal for an email between friends, and includes examples of ellipsis.
- There is a sufficient range of language to give clear descriptions and express viewpoints and repetition is avoided.
- The email is, on the whole, grammatically and lexically accurate and any mistakes do not lead to misunderstanding.

Review

