

What makes a great B2 article?

Compare these two versions of the same essay. How has the student improved the second one? Why do you think they did this?



Luckily, luck always accompanies me.

At B2 you are expected to write accurately with few mistakes, especially if you are using simple grammar and vocabulary.

Holidays probably is the most waited period of the year, more if you are going to travel abroad for the first time.

The opening paragraph needs to hook the reader and explain the topic of the text.

Remember to think about the target reader: who are they, and what do they expect from your writing? Be careful not to turn the article into a simple story about yourself!

I was waiting in the Baraja's International Airport in Madrid, the plane was going to leave at 4.00 am and there were only 45 minutes left. My uncle had left in the house a special and a maybe necessary permission that allows a minor to travel with someone who isn't your parent, in this case, me. There was no time to return to the house but hopefully during the check-in, the controllers didn't ask us about this special permission.

Remember that *collocation* is really important at B2 level. Make sure you use a variety of ambitious B2 grammar and vocabulary.

An article is not as formal as an essay. This means that some connectors like this aren't really appropriate for informal texts.

On the other hand, gratefully there were any more problems during the trip, we went sightseeing through Amsterdam and we found in the pavement, next to a tourist information office a special ticket, that gives us a vip status to skip all the queues of the most importants monuments and buildings of the city.

Remember to use sentences to organise your ideas. A long single sentence like this makes your writing hard to follow,

I will always remember this trip, but the thing is, do you will be carried along by destiny?

Use pronouns and questions like *have you ever* to talk directly to the target reader.

Where will your luck take you?

It can be good to have a rhetorical question in the title to engage the target reader.

Holidays are probably the most awaited time of year – especially if you are going somewhere for the first time. Luck can make a bad experience become a fun story, like my disastrous trip to Amsterdam last summer.

Try to use a variety of grammar structures (like this relative clause) to show the examiner that you have B2!

Have you ever arrived at the airport and realised you were missing something important? I was waiting for my plane to leave from Barajas International Airport in Madrid, and there were only 45 minutes until takeoff. I was flying alone, which meant that I needed special permission to fly without an adult. The bad luck came when we realised he had left it at home, and there was no time to go back to get it. I crossed my fingers, and luckily the controllers didn't ask us for this permission. But what would have happened if they had?

At B2, you are expected to use linking words and phrases at the start of sentences and paragraphs.

This topic sentence hooks the target reader and makes them want to keep reading.

What things do you miss if you aren't paying attention? Fortunately, there weren't any more problems during the trip, and we even had a bit of luck. When we went sightseeing through Amsterdam I found a special VIP ticket to skip all the queues of the most important landmarks in the city. Despite a bumpy start, I will always remember this trip. Sometimes destiny can carry us along through bad experiences. Where will your destiny take you next?

Finish the article with the same kind of rhetorical question from the title. This shows you have great organisation in your writing.

