



## Being Independent: Improving your IELTS response

Read the example and think about how to improve it.

I think I am not independent from my family, because I live in with them now. So, it is difficult to find how independent I think I am. But I found my independent point.

First, I can almost housework alone. For example, I can clean room, buy food and cook them, wash dishes, do laundry, and so on. These days I rarely do that, and it means I depend on my mother. I am not independent. But I have ability to do that. I think it is a little independent compare the person who can't do housework.

Second, I can earn money for my own. When I was a high school student, I couldn't do part time job. So, when I want to go out, I always got some pocket money from my mother. However, after I became a university student, I worked part time job and I become to earn money. I believe that making money is the first step to independent, so I think I became independent than the past.

Third, I have my own idea and I can decide what I will do. In other words, I can make decision. For instance, when my childhood, I needed a long time to decide things. And my mother sometimes gave me a hint. I had a I needed someone's help. But now, I can decide my future career or my daily plan, and it a self-responsibility. I have a responsibility for my own, and it means I am independent.

How can you improve the writing?

Try to be more specific with sentences:

| Before   | After  |
|--|--|
| I think I am not independent from my family, because I live in with them now.  | I think I am not very independent as I still live with my family.  |
| But I found my independent point.  | However, I have found that I am becoming more independent since becoming a university student.                               |
| First, I can almost housework alone.   | First, I realize that I can do almost all the housework chores.  |
| I am not independent. But I have ability to do that. I think it is a little independent compare the person who can't do housework. | Although I think I am possibly a little more independent compared to other people, I should do more chores around the house. |

Now – change to still

So (too informal for writing) – Because of *noun phrase*, ... / As a result,

But (too informal for writing) – However,

And so on (too informal for writing) – and other household chores

when my childhood – in my childhood/ when I was at high school (more specific)

song always cheers me up. If you have any time and haven't seen them, please watch these movies.



I think I am not very independent as I still live with my family. Because of this situation, it is difficult to find out how independent I actually think I am. However, I have found that I am becoming more independent since becoming a university student.

First, I realize that I can do almost all the housework chores. For example, I used to regularly clean my room, buy and cook my meals, wash the dishes, do the laundry, and other household chores. However, these days, I rarely do these jobs around the house as I am too busy with my studies and so depend on my mother. Although I think I am possibly a little more independent compared to other people, I should do more chores around the house.

Second, I can earn my own money. When I was a high school student, I couldn't work part time as I had to focus on my studies. As a result, when I wanted to go out, I always relied on my mother to give me some money. However, since becoming a university student, I have worked part time and earned money. Although I am still not financially independent, I believe that making money is the first step to independency and supporting myself. Also, compared to the past, I think I am becoming more independent.

Finally, I have become more confident in my ideas and what I want to do. In other words, I can come to my own decisions. When I was at high school, I needed a long time to decide things and would sometimes rely on my mother to point me in the right direction. Also, I felt I needed to ask help from others as I was not so confident in my decisions. Since coming to university, however, I feel that I have grown up and can decide not only simple things like my daily plans but also important decisions such as my future career. As I have become more responsible for my own decisions, I feel that I have become more independent.

### From the above work, try to chunk the speech

Find the pause – Chunking      short /    longer //

CAPITALISE the stressed (important) word

I LIKE this class / because the teacher is GOOD / and everyone is FRIENDly. // ALso, / my English is getting BETter. //

I think I am not very independent / as I still live with my family. // Because of this situation, / it is difficult to find out / how independent I actually think I am. // However, / I have found that I am becoming more independent / since becoming a university student. //

First, / I realize that I can do / almost all the housework chores. // For example, / I used to regularly clean my room, / buy and cook my meals, / wash the dishes, / do the laundry, and other household chores. // However, / these days, / I rarely do these jobs around the house / as I am too busy with my studies / and so depend on my mother. // Although I think I am possibly a little more independent / compared to other people, / I should do more chores around the house. //

Second, / I can earn my own money. // When I was a high school student, / I couldn't work part time / as I had to focus on my studies. // As a result, / when I wanted to go out, / I always relied on my mother / to give me some money. // However, / since becoming a university student, / I have worked part time / and earned money. // Although I am still not financially independent, / I believe that making money / is the first step to independency / and supporting myself. // Also, / compared to the past, / I think I am becoming more independent. //

Finally, / I have become more confident in my ideas / and what I want to do. // In other words, / I can come to my own decisions. // When I was at high school, / I needed a long time to decide things / and would sometimes rely on my mother / to point me in the right direction. // Also, / I felt I needed to ask for help from others / as I was not so confident in my decisions. // Since coming to university, / however, / I feel that I have grown up / and can decide not only simple things / like my daily plans / but also important decisions / such as my future career. // As I have become more responsible / for my own decisions, / I feel that I have become more independent. //