



A Strange Dream: Improving your IELTS response

Read the example and think about how to improve it.

There are two strange dreams that I had.

The first strange dream is about a witch who appears in my sister's room. I have had this dream many times. The witch has a long nose and wears black clothes every time. And the witch asks me questions every time. But I don't remember the content of that question at all. It's a strange dream that if I can't answer that question, my family will be killed. And I have never been able to answer that question. So I wake up every time after my whole family is killed.

The second strange dream is that I am the only one who can't get on the train. I have had this strange dream many times. I often dream about this when I have a problem. This dream is set on the platform of the station. I know all the characters in my dream and they are my classmates. Everyone is waiting for the train to arrive. But all my classmates can get on the train, but I'm the only one who can't get on it every time. The reason why I can't get on the train is that there is a gap of about 2 meters between the platform of the station and the train. I can't get through this gap every time, but all my classmates can easily get through it. It is a very scary dream for me that I'm too scared to get on the train every time and my friends leave me there.

I have had these two dreams many times, so I think I'll have these strange dreams in the future. Next time, I want to remember what the witch asks me.

My suggestions

There is good structure by describing the scene, then an explanation of the situation and finally the scary twist is revealed near the end of the story.

Be aware of punctuation in typing. Leave a space after: “.” or “,”

To add further description, use relative clauses: **that, which, who**, etc.

A final point is to think of alternative words for “strange” and “dream”

How can you improve the writing?

There are two strange dreams **that** I had which are quite strange. The first strange dream is about a witch **who** appears in my sister's room. I have had this dream many times. The witch has a long nose and wears black clothes every time. And in this dream, she always asks me questions but I can never remember **what** she says at all. It is not only a strange dream but a scary one **in that** if I cannot answer the questions that she asked, my family will be killed. And I have never been able to answer her questions so I wake up every time after my whole family has been killed. I know, really shocking.

The second strange dream **is that** I am the only one **who** can't get on the train. I have had this strange dream many times. I often dream about this when I am having a problem in my life. This dream starts on a platform at the station **in which** I am waiting for a train as usual. I know all the characters in my dream as they are all my classmates at high school. Everyone is waiting for the train to arrive but only my classmates can get on the train. I am the only one **who** can't get on which happens every time. The reason **why** I can't get on the train is **that** there is a gap of about two meters between the platform of the station and the train. I can never jump this gap but all my classmates can easily manage it. It is such a very scary dream that in real life, I am, in fact, too scared to get on the train and that my friends will leave me there.

I have had these two dreams many times so I think I am sure I will continue to have these strange dreams in the future. Next time, I at least want to remember what the witch actually asks me.