

2.7

WRITING

An article

I can write an article attracting the reader's attention using participle clauses.

1 SPEAKING Discuss the questions.

- 1 Are you thinking of going to university when you finish school? Why?/Why not?
- 2 What might be the reasons to go to university? Think of at least two.
- 3 What might be the reasons not to go to university? Think of at least two.
- 4 What alternatives to university are there?

2 Read the task. Then quickly read the article and the alternative conclusions. Answer the questions in your notebook.

Is going to university a valuable thing for a person to do? Write an article for a student website giving reasons for and against and stating your view.

- 1 Does the writer mention the same reasons as you did in Exercise 1?
- 2 What are the writer's answers to the question in the title in Conclusion A and in Conclusion B?
- 3 Which conclusion do you agree with? Why?

Going to university – is it still worth it?

With the cost of higher education **going through the roof**, many young people are wondering if going to university is still **worth their while**. So it's vital to balance the costs with the potential benefits and make sure it's the right decision for you.

5 Let's take a look at the arguments.

What are the benefits? First of all, a university education improves your job prospects and broadens your future options. Increasingly, you're at a disadvantage without a degree.

Statistics show that graduates have a lower unemployment rate
10 than non-graduates and higher annual earnings. And a degree opens up job opportunities abroad as well – when you're a graduate, **the world's your oyster!** But is it only the study element of university that can make a difference to your life? No! Graduate Helen Boyd found the life experience as valuable
15 as the education, if not more so. 'University **is massively character building**,' she says.

Still, not everyone is so enthusiastic about higher education. Some people argue that university education is greatly overestimated and that it gives young people false
20 expectations about their career prospects. Many students leave university **saddled with debt**, and with no guarantee of a decent job. Did you know that in recent years, there have been eighty-three applicants for most graduate jobs in the UK? Another argument is that many employers appear to
25 **value work experience over a degree**. As one employer puts it, 'I now make a point of interviewing people first who have spent their time travelling or working instead of doing a degree, because this shows they're prepared to **stand out from the crowd**.'



Conclusion A

So do the benefits outweigh the costs? On balance, I would say that university is definitely worth it – for the economic reasons as well as the less tangible outcomes. Go for it!



Conclusion B

So do the costs outweigh the benefits? On balance, comparing the expenses one has to meet with **the odds** of getting a good graduate job, I would advise you to consider alternative routes to the future.