

An online discussion forum

Learn how to write posts on an online forum.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and tips and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–e) with the words (1–5).

Words

1. a link
2. a portfolio
3. a translator
4. to misunderstand
5. professional

Definition

- a. examples of your work for showing to other people
- b. someone whose job is to change a text into a different language
- c. the opposite of 'to understand'
- d. doing something as your job, not just as a hobby
- e. a website address

An online discussion forum

Katie20

Can you believe it? Someone in another group asked me to write some pages of their website in English and French. But they can't pay because 'I'm starting this business with no money.' He said he's a professional photographer and he can do some photos for me instead. Am I wrong to be angry?

Asher87

Nope! I'd be angry too

JayCee99

I can't help but here's the link to a friend's website. He is a French–English writer and translator www.franco-anglo-translations.com/About

Carla62

Er ... asking people to work for free ... not cool!

Asher87

^^^ This!

JayCee99

Oops! I thought you were looking for someone. Sorry for the misunderstanding 😊

Carla62

I can't pay my rent with photographs, sorry

Katie20

Exactly!

Mylo45

True, but professional photos cost a lot of money, especially if you're getting married. Sorry I don't speak French or I would do it 😊

Katie20

Here's a link to his photography if anyone wants the job www.billsphoto.com/portfolio As you can see the website needs some work ... 😊

Carla62

@Mylo45 Maybe, but people always ask writers to work for free #PayMe

Katie20

Yep, if I need photos OK but I prefer to get paid with money

.....

Tips

1. Writing in online forums is more like speaking.
2. You don't have to put full stops (.) at the end of sentences.
3. Use ^^ to show you're talking about the post above yours.
4. Use @ and a person's name to show clearly who you're replying to.
5. You can use emojis. 😊
6. Stay calm and be polite. Some people get angry in online discussions but try to avoid that.

Tasks

Task 1

Choose the correct answer.

1. What's the discussion about?
 - a. Katie20's new website.
 - b. Some work that was offered to Katie20.
2. What doesn't Katie20 like about it?
 - a. The website owner doesn't want to pay money for the work.
 - b. The work is too difficult.
3. What mistake did JayCee99 make?
 - a. They misunderstood the first post.
 - b. They put the wrong link.
4. Who does Asher87 agree with?
 - a. Carla62.
 - b. JayCee99.
5. What does Katie20 mean when they say 'Exactly'?
 - a. JayCee99 needed to say sorry.
 - b. Carla62's idea is correct.
6. How does Mylo45 disagree politely with other people?
 - a. They say *Sorry* to apologise.
 - b. They say *True, but ...* to accept other people's comments first, before disagreeing.
7. How does Carla62 disagree politely with Mylo45?
 - a. She says *Maybe, but ...* to partly accept Mylo45's comment first, before disagreeing.
 - b. She says *No, because ...* to disagree clearly.
8. Does the discussion stay friendly?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Task 2

Write the tips in the correct group.

Get angry or write angry words.	Write in a formal way.	Use emojis (if you like them).
Stay calm.	Be polite.	Write like you speak.

Do	Don't

Task 3

Match the one-word expressions to their meaning.

One-word expressions	Meaning
1. Exactly!/This!	a. I think the same!
2. Nope.	b. Well ...
3. Er ...	c. I made a mistake!
4. Oops!	d. No.
5. Yep.	e. Yes.

Discussion

Do you join in many discussion forums? Why or why not?

Answers

Preparation task

1. e
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. d

Task 1

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. a
5. b
6. b
7. a
8. a

Task 2

Do	Don't
<p>Write like you speak.</p> <p>Use emojis (if you like them).</p> <p>Stay calm.</p> <p>Be polite.</p>	<p>Write in a formal way.</p> <p>Get angry or write angry words.</p>

Task 3

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. c
5. e

