IELTS – Task 1 - Writing Strategies

ACADEMIC TASK 1 – TABLE OR CHARTS

The table below gives information about languages with the most native speakers.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant

You should write at least 150 words.

Languages with the most native speakers

Language	Number of native speakers	Number of speakers as an aditional language	Total number of speakers
Mandarin Chinese	900 million	190 million	1,090 million
Hindi	370 million	120 million	490 million
Spanish	350 million	70 million	420 million
English	339 million	603 million	942 million
Arabic	206 million	24 million	230 million
Portuguese	203 million	10 million	213 million

Response 1: Model Answer

The table illustrates the number of native speakers of six languages as well as the number of speakers of these languages as an additional language. It is noticeable that the number of speakers of Mandarin Chinese is strikingly higher than the other languages with over one billion speakers.

People who speak Mandarin largely speak it as a first language. In comparison to this only 190 million people speak Mandarin Chinese as an additional language. What is remarkable about English speakers is that the number of speakers of English as an additional language is higher than that of native speakers of English

While the total number of Hindi speakers is roughly equal to that of Spanish speakers; when it comes to speaking these languages as an additional language the number for Hindi is much higher than that for Spanish.

Native speakers of Arabic and Portuguese are similar in number with 206 million and 203 million respectively. However, the number of Arabic speakers as an additional language is almost double than speakers of Portuguese as an additional language.

Model Answer Response 2: Score (6.5)

The Table provides data on the number of speakers of several different languages, including Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, English, Arabic, and Portuguese. Overall, most of the people use Mandarin Chinese as their first language. However, English is the most popular second language.

There are 900 million people who are native Mandarin Chinese speakers, followed by Hindi, Spanish, and English, which have 370 million, 350 million, and 339 million users respectively. The language used as native the most rarely are Arabic and Portuguese, which is only spoken by 206 million and 203 million people. Conversely, as the second language, English becomes the most popular one, including 603 million speakers, among all languages. Mandarin Chinese drops to number two, which owns 190 million users, followed by Hindi, Spanish, Arabic, and Portuguese, which all are taken as the additional languages by fewer than 120 million people mostly.

To summarize, there are 1.09 billion people can speak Mandarin Chinese and 942 million people use English, both of two are the most widely accepted languages, compared to the others including Hindi, Spanish, Arabic, and Portuguese.

Feedback:

The first paragraph is nicely paraphrased and explains well the purpose of the table and highlights the notable features of the task. However make sure whenever you list down the contrasting features do not interrupt the flow by providing details (Figures). You can make your summary strong by concluding with highlighting features mentioned in your main paragraphs. Example: Overall it is observed that Mandarin Chinese has the most native speakers whereas English is the most popular second language.

In terms of sentence framing, the response is good with less grammatical mistakes. Not many complex sentences are used. The use of vocabulary can be improved.

Model Answer Response 3: Score (5)

In the tabular report the information is about languages with more speakers, also it gives information about the main languages with more native speakers.

The country with the number of native speakers is obviously China with approximately 900 millions of people who speak Mandarin Chinese as a first and native language. The total number of people who speaks this language is about 1090 million, more that in the rest of the languages.

According to the table the language with more speakers are mandarin Chinese, English, Hindi, Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese in that order. Hindi, Spanish and English have around the same amount of native speakers.

Hindi, Spanish and English. have around the same amount of native speakers with 350 million more or less. The big difference between this language is that they don't have the same total number of speakers. The information said that the quantity of people who speaks Spanish is just a little bit more than a half of the people who speaks Hindi like a second language. The difference is in the number of people who speak English as an additional language. The total number of English speakers is more than the total of people who speak Hindi and Spanish as a second language.

The rest of the information, no less important the table gives the number of the people who speak Arabic and Portuguese, similar amount in native speakers, but less than a half of people who speak Arabic as a second language speak Portuguese.

Feedback:

1. Instead of using obviously ".. obviously, China with approximately 900 million of people who speak Mandarin Chinese as a first and native language." You can say "the country with significantly large number of native speakers.".
2. Replace this sentence "According to the table the language with more speakers" with "According to the table the languages with most to least speakers are..." because you are showing the trend in descending order.
3. "The rest of the information, no less important the table gives the number of…". This is an inappropriate way of writing the information.

Grammatical errors:

1. The total number of people who speak this language.
2. The appropriate sentence would be "about the same number of native speakers" instead of "around the same number of native speakers".
3. Do not use the phrase "quantity of people" instead use "number of people".
4. Who speak Spanish or Hindi and not who speaks Spanish or Hindi.

Model Answer Response 4: (Less than 5)

The table illustrates languages with the most native speakers. Basically, in different columns to show types of languages, number of native speakers, number of speakers as an additional language and total number of speakers. From all data, we can see that most huge numbers have Mandarin Chinese native speakers with 900 million and 190 million speakers who use this language as an additional. Second place have the English language, which have 339 million of native speakers and 603 million people who use this as an additional language. In conclusion, Spanish and Hindi languages have almost equal numbers, 370 million native Hindi speakers compared with 350 million Spanish and 120 million Hindi users as additional languages compared with 70 million Spanish as additional. And most small differents between Arabic with 206 million native speakers and Portuguese with 203 million. Which has 24 million Arabic additional language users and 10 million Portuguese additional language speakers.

Feedback:

The above response has many grammatical mistakes. In most of the sentences the framing isn't appropriate. Also there are many spelling mistakes. There's no proper conclusion provided. the student has failed to link the features logically as well as the linking devices used to connect the points are incorrect.

1. "The table illustrates languages with the most native speakers" is an incorrect way of introducing the table. Instead you can start by writing, The table illustrates the number of native speakers of the most spoken languages in the world as well as the number of speakers of these languages as an additional, including Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, English, Arabic, and Portuguese.
2. "Basically, in different columns to show types of languages, number of native speakers, number of speakers as an additional language and total number of speakers." This sentence is incorrectly framed and doesn't make any sense and appears incomplete
3. "From all data, we can see that most huge numbers", here the words, most and huge are used together which is grammatically wrong. We can write it as, "From the given data it is clear that most of the people are mandarin Chinese speakers…."
4. Using "secondly" instead of "Second place"
5. "Native speakers of Arabic and Portuguese are similar in number with 206 million and 203 million respectively." sounds much better than, " And most small differents between Arabic with 206 million native speakers and Portuguese with 203 million."

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