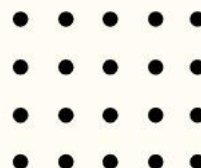


ANG-5105-1. WRITING SKILLS II



## ***Au Pair in the USA***

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# L.E.S Au Pair

## ***SCENARIO***

English is an important language and you wish to speak it like a native speaker, that is why you want to become an \*Au Pair in the U.S.A. You are aware that it is the desire of many of your friends. Thus, you decide to share your experience.

Your reading of various writing and oral texts will help you write a report to inform people about the requirements to become an Au Pair. As a future Au Pair applicant, you will also publish an example of your welcome letter to your host family.

## ***TASKS***

### **Task 1:**

Read the “Being an Au Pair” from page 4 to 6

Watch “Writing a Welcome Letter: Au Pair.Com” on page 6

Read “How to write a welcome letter to your host family” on page 7

Use the information charts from page 8 to 9 to gather and organize information about the various texts and graphs.

### **Task 2:**

Write a welcome letter to your host family in order to apply to become an Au Pair. Draft: pages 11 and 12. Final: pages 13 and 14.

## ***DURATION***

240 minutes

### ***FAMILIES OF LEARNING SITUATIONS AND LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS:***

- Informing, expressing, persuading

### ***AUTHORIZED MATERIALS/RESOURCES***

- English dictionary, bilingual dictionary, grammar book
- Internet, magazines, newspapers, books
- Other relevant resources.

### ***INSTRUCTIONS***

- Read and interpret the different texts.
- Use the information charts to gather and organize information.
- Use the template to write a report of 100 word and a letter of 250 words.

## TASK 1 READ AND INTERPRET TEXTS

# Being an Au Pair

Home > All the actualities > Studying abroad > Student jobs abroad > Being an au pair

You would love to spend time abroad but accommodation seems so expensive and your English is so poor... Being an au pair is a perfect way to travel, learn a language and gain valuable work experience without breaking the bank.

### Language & cultural immersion

Learning to speak a foreign language almost like a native isn't the only benefit of the au pair adventure. By getting acquainted with a new country and its culture, you will also be developing your adaptability skills: adjusting to cultural differences is a mind-opening experience. **Being an au pair** is also about fitting into a host family and putting effort into speaking with everyone, even if you happen to stumble on words or be unable to finish some of your sentences. Au pairs often take weekly language courses (sometimes compulsory, depending on the country) to supplement their daily language immersion. Though at first you may even need to use sign language, by the time you leave the country you should be close to fluent in its language.

### An inexpensive international experience

By taking care of one or several children on a daily basis, you will be gaining rewarding work experience. If you choose to go au pair, you won't be setting off on some long holiday: you will be following a daily schedule and handling various responsibilities. The many obligations involved make this **student job abroad** a real resume builder: your au pair experience won't go unnoticed by an employer. Moreover, no need to worry about paying for meals and accommodation; you will live with the host family

almost as if you were part of it. Going au pair will allow you to travel without having to set aside much money.

### **Au pair? Yes, but where?**

The USA is a very sought-after destination but there is a quite precise list of requirements to meet as well as specific steps to follow. Don't wait until the last minute to apply! To qualify for a twelve month au pair stay in the United States, you must be between 18-26 years old and have good language skills. Of course, you shouldn't be married nor have children and be in good health. You should have never been under psychological treatment in the past

It is also recommended not to be a smoker. As you are going to take care of children, you should have at least 200 hours experience in child care in the past 2 years. Having a driving license as well as a good driving experience is mandatory.

You should have a clear criminal record.

### **Life as an au pair: get the basics right**

Working conditions, au pair duties: what should you expect?

An au pair works an average of thirty-forty hours per week. If you are taking classes during your stay, your schedule might be adjusted accordingly.

**Being an au pair** is a real job! Generally, you get one or two days off every week and two weeks of paid vacation per year.

An au pair's main responsibility is to take care of the children (dropping them off and picking them up from school, dealing with meals, helping with homework...). You certainly aren't supposed to be a cleaning lady but you will be doing some everyday domestic tasks (washing dishes, vacuuming, picking up...).

As an au pair doesn't sign a work contract, there is no monthly salary. You will receive a weekly stipend: its amount depends on the country but \$150 is the average.

Trust and reliability are what you and the host family are looking for. Get acquainted before you pack your suitcase. Getting in touch with a host

family and building a relationship is the central to securing an au pair position.

### **Go smart**

Don't expect to secure an Au Pair position in the USA without applying through an Au Pair agency: this is the only way to get a J-1 Visa (which is renewable for 12 months). If you go through the entire process, a costless adventure awaits you: your round trip will be paid for and you will receive a USD500 study allowance to help pay for classes.

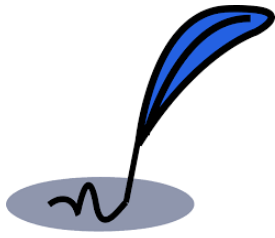
Source:  
<https://fr.april-international.com/en/job-etudiant-l-etranger/being-au-pair>



**Writing a Welcome letter: AuPair.com**

**Click on this following link to watch the video:  
Safe and Easy**

**<https://youtu.be/-OfI0hGH3Wo>**



## How to write a presentation letter to your host family?

### *Personal introduction*

Make a brief introduction about you, talk about your interests, hobbies, what you like to do, but do not specify your contact details. Introduce briefly your own family, and describe it! If you have siblings, your prospective Host Family would surely love to hear about them.

### *Why would you like to be an Au Pair?*

Many Host Families are really curious about your reasons to work as an Au Pair, your future plans and goals.

- ✍ What do you expect from this new experience?
- ✍ What are your hobbies and interests?
- ✍ What do you like to do in your leisure time?
- ✍ What do you want to do after your Au Pair stay?
- ✍ What are your plans for the future?
- ✍ Why do you want to become an Au Pair?
- ✍ What are your personal motives?
- ✍ Why did you choose that particular country as your future host country?
- ✍ Why should the family host you as the Au Pair?

**These charts may be used to help you gather and organize information for the final task. The charts are optional and will not be evaluated.**

### **INFORMATION CHART**

<b>Questions about “Being an AU PAIR”</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Why people choose to become an Au Pair?	
What are the advantages of going abroad?	
What are the main chores of an Au Pair?	
What are the requirements of a future Au Pair?	
What should an Au Pair do before leaving?	
<b>Other notes:</b> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	



## INFORMATION CHART

Questions on the video “Writing a Welcome Letter” and text “How to write a welcome letter”	Answers
Why a prospective Au Pair should write a letter?	
What advice are given to write a good welcome letter (presentation letter)?	
<p>What should be included in the letter?</p> <p><i>You may want to also use the text “How to write a welcome letter to your host family”.</i></p>	
<p>Other notes:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

## **TASK 2    WRITE AND PRODUCE TEXTS**

### **Scenario**

English is an important language and you wish to speak it like a native speaker, that is why you want to become an Au Pair in the U.S.A. You are aware that it is the desire of many of your friends. Thus, you decide to share your experience.

Your reading of various writing and oral texts will help you write a report to inform people about the requirements to become an Au Pair. You will also publish an example of your welcome letter to your host family.

Write a welcome letter (presentation letter) to your host family in order to apply to become an Au Pair.

### **Instructions:**

Using the information from the written and oral texts, write:

- The body of your welcome letter will be between 150-250 words long.
- Write your draft on the page titled “Draft”. Write your final letter on the page titled “Final copy”.
- Include the greetings.
- End with a polite sentence followed by your full name.
- Include the date, as well as opening and closing salutations.
- Introduce yourself and include everything you may think pertinent.
- Convince your prospective host family that you are the ideal candidate.
- Hand in this Learning Evaluation Situation.

DRAFT

## Welcome Letter (Presentation Letter)

[illegible]

[illegible]

# FINAL

## Welcome Letter (Presentation Letter)

[illegible]

[illegible]

**Sources:**

<https://www.aupair.com/en/p-au-pair-usa-america.php>

[https://www.aupair.com/en/p-au-pair-host-family-letter.php#dear\\_Host\\_Family\\_Forms](https://www.aupair.com/en/p-au-pair-host-family-letter.php#dear_Host_Family_Forms)

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