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300 IELTS Writing Topic Vocabulary Chunks (2026)

Task 1 and Task 2 academic chunks: topic language plus trends, comparison, opinion and cause-effect.

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Tip: highlight 8-12 items this week, practise them in a timed mock, then unlock Pro for fuller banks and AI feedback.

Education (Task 2 topics)

Academic chunks for essays on schooling and universities.

Chunk	Task	Example
tuition fees	Task 2	Rising tuition fees may deter talented students from low-income families.
academic achievement	Task 2	Academic achievement should not be measured by examination scores alone.
rote memorisation	Task 2	An overreliance on rote memorisation can weaken analytical ability.
critical thinking	Task 2	Curricula should prioritise critical thinking rather than passive recall.
vocational education	Task 2	Vocational education can reduce youth unemployment when linked to industry needs.
lifelong learning	Task 2	Lifelong learning has become essential in a rapidly changing labour market.
educational inequality	Task 2	Educational inequality often reflects wider socioeconomic gaps.
distance learning	Task 2	Distance learning expands access but may reduce peer interaction.
literacy rates	Task 2	Improving adult literacy rates supports both productivity and civic participation.
teacher training	Task 2	Investment in teacher training yields longer-term gains than short exam drills.
extracurricular programmes	Task 2	Extracurricular programmes develop soft skills that classrooms alone may not.
university rankings	Task 2	Obsession with university rankings can distort institutional priorities.
student debt	Task 2	High student debt may delay home ownership and family formation.
inclusive education	Task 2	Inclusive education requires adequate funding and specialist support.
assessment methods	Task 2	Diversifying assessment methods can reward a broader range of abilities.
early childhood education	Task 2	High-quality early childhood education narrows later attainment gaps.
brain drain	Task 2	Brain drain occurs when graduates emigrate for better opportunities abroad.
academic freedom	Task 2	Academic freedom is a cornerstone of credible research institutions.

skills mismatch	Task 2	A skills mismatch between graduates and employers wastes public investment.
compulsory education	Task 2	Extending compulsory education can raise baseline skills across society.

Environment (Task 2 topics)

Formal language for climate and sustainability essays.

Chunk	Task	Example
carbon emissions	Task 2	Governments must set binding targets to reduce carbon emissions.
renewable energy sources	Task 2	Renewable energy sources are increasingly cost-competitive with fossil fuels.
climate mitigation	Task 2	Climate mitigation requires coordinated international action.
biodiversity loss	Task 2	Biodiversity loss undermines ecosystem services that economies rely on.
sustainable development	Task 2	Sustainable development balances growth with environmental limits.
plastic waste	Task 2	Plastic waste in oceans harms marine life and coastal communities.
environmental degradation	Task 2	Unchecked industrial growth can accelerate environmental degradation.
carbon tax	Task 2	A carefully designed carbon tax can shift behaviour without crushing industry.
deforestation rates	Task 2	Falling deforestation rates depend on enforcement, not pledges alone.
climate adaptation	Task 2	Climate adaptation is essential for cities facing extreme heat and flooding.
ecological footprint	Task 2	High-consumption lifestyles leave a large ecological footprint.
green infrastructure	Task 2	Green infrastructure can reduce urban heat and manage stormwater.
fossil fuel subsidies	Task 2	Removing fossil fuel subsidies frees funds for cleaner alternatives.
environmental regulations	Task 2	Strict environmental regulations may raise short-term costs yet prevent larger losses.
circular economy	Task 2	A circular economy emphasises reuse and recycling over disposal.
air quality standards	Task 2	Enforcing air quality standards protects public health in dense cities.
habitat destruction	Task 2	Habitat destruction is a primary driver of species extinction.
net-zero targets	Task 2	Net-zero targets are credible only when backed by transparent reporting.
resource depletion	Task 2	Resource depletion threatens industries that depend on scarce materials.
environmental awareness	Task 2	Public environmental awareness is necessary but insufficient without policy.

Technology (Task 2 topics)

Digital change, AI and society in formal prose.

Chunk	Task	Example
technological advancement	Task 2	Technological advancement has transformed communication and commerce.

artificial intelligence	Task 2	Artificial intelligence can improve efficiency while raising ethical concerns.
automation of labour	Task 2	Automation of labour may displace routine jobs and create demand for new skills.
digital divide	Task 2	The digital divide risks excluding rural and low-income populations.
data privacy	Task 2	Stronger data privacy laws are needed as companies collect personal information.
cybersecurity threats	Task 2	Cybersecurity threats to critical infrastructure require national coordination.
remote working	Task 2	Remote working can increase flexibility yet weaken workplace cohesion.
technological dependence	Task 2	Technological dependence leaves societies vulnerable to system failures.
innovation capacity	Task 2	Investment in research strengthens a country's innovation capacity.
surveillance technology	Task 2	Surveillance technology must be balanced against civil liberties.
digital literacy	Task 2	Digital literacy should be treated as a basic civic skill.
online misinformation	Task 2	Online misinformation can distort public debate and elections.
e-commerce growth	Task 2	E-commerce growth has reshaped retail and logistics.
job displacement	Task 2	Job displacement caused by machines requires reskilling programmes.
cutting-edge research	Task 2	Universities play a central role in cutting-edge research.
algorithmic bias	Task 2	Algorithmic bias can reinforce existing social inequalities.
information overload	Task 2	Information overload may reduce the quality of decision-making.
technological obsolescence	Task 2	Rapid technological obsolescence contributes to electronic waste.
platform economy	Task 2	The platform economy blurs traditional boundaries between employees and contractors.
human-centred design	Task 2	Human-centred design ensures technology serves users rather than the reverse.

Health (Task 2 topics)

Public health and lifestyle essay vocabulary.

Chunk	Task	Example
public health	Task 2	Public health investment often delivers high social returns.
preventive healthcare	Task 2	Preventive healthcare reduces the long-term burden on hospitals.
life expectancy	Task 2	Life expectancy has risen in many countries, though disparities remain.
chronic diseases	Task 2	Chronic diseases are closely linked to diet and physical inactivity.
mental health provision	Task 2	Mental health provision remains underfunded relative to need.
healthcare access	Task 2	Unequal healthcare access widens outcomes between income groups.

sedentary behaviour	Task 2	Sedentary behaviour has become common in office-based economies.
obesity rates	Task 2	Rising obesity rates place additional strain on health systems.
health literacy	Task 2	Improving health literacy helps citizens make informed choices.
universal healthcare	Task 2	Universal healthcare aims to treat need rather than ability to pay.
lifestyle-related illness	Task 2	Lifestyle-related illness is partly preventable through policy and education.
vaccination programmes	Task 2	Vaccination programmes have eradicated or controlled many infectious diseases.
ageing population	Task 2	An ageing population increases demand for long-term care.
health inequalities	Task 2	Health inequalities often mirror housing and employment gaps.
nutritional standards	Task 2	Clearer nutritional standards for school meals can improve child health.
work-related stress	Task 2	Work-related stress is a growing occupational health concern.
primary care	Task 2	Strengthening primary care can reduce unnecessary hospital admissions.
antibiotic resistance	Task 2	Antibiotic resistance threatens the effectiveness of modern medicine.
health promotion campaigns	Task 2	Health promotion campaigns are most effective when culturally tailored.
well-being metrics	Task 2	Policymakers increasingly consider well-being metrics alongside GDP.

Work and the economy (Task 2)

Employment, skills and economic structure.

Chunk	Task	Example
labour market	Task 2	The labour market rewards adaptable skills more than narrow credentials.
job security	Task 2	Declining job security can increase household financial stress.
gig economy	Task 2	The gig economy offers flexibility but often lacks social protections.
productivity growth	Task 2	Productivity growth underpins sustainable wage increases.
income inequality	Task 2	Income inequality can undermine social cohesion if left unaddressed.
unemployment rate	Task 2	A falling unemployment rate does not guarantee high-quality jobs.
human capital	Task 2	Education and training are investments in human capital.
work-life balance	Task 2	Policies that support work-life balance can reduce burnout.
minimum wage	Task 2	Raising the minimum wage may lift living standards for low-paid workers.
occupational mobility	Task 2	Limited occupational mobility traps workers in low-paid sectors.
economic downturn	Task 2	During an economic downturn, governments may increase public spending.

skilled workforce	Task 2	Attracting a skilled workforce is central to regional development.
workplace discrimination	Task 2	Workplace discrimination wastes talent and violates basic fairness.
flexible working arrangements	Task 2	Flexible working arrangements can improve retention of experienced staff.
trade unions	Task 2	Trade unions historically improved pay and safety standards.
structural unemployment	Task 2	Structural unemployment persists when skills no longer match available jobs.
entrepreneurship	Task 2	Entrepreneurship can create jobs if financing and regulation are supportive.
global supply chains	Task 2	Disruptions to global supply chains expose economic interdependence.
retirement age	Task 2	Raising the retirement age is politically sensitive yet fiscally relevant.
living wage	Task 2	A living wage reflects local housing and transport costs more accurately than a national floor.

Cities, housing and transport (Task 2)

Urban planning and infrastructure essays.

Chunk	Task	Example
urbanisation	Task 2	Rapid urbanisation places pressure on housing and public services.
affordable housing	Task 2	A shortage of affordable housing forces long commutes on lower-income workers.
traffic congestion	Task 2	Traffic congestion imposes economic costs through lost time and fuel.
public transport investment	Task 2	Public transport investment can reduce private car dependence.
urban sprawl	Task 2	Urban sprawl increases infrastructure costs and car use.
housing affordability	Task 2	Housing affordability is now a central political issue in many capitals.
mixed-use development	Task 2	Mixed-use development can create more walkable neighbourhoods.
infrastructure deficit	Task 2	An infrastructure deficit constrains growth in fast-expanding cities.
slum upgrading	Task 2	Slum upgrading improves living conditions without mass displacement.
congestion charging	Task 2	Congestion charging can discourage unnecessary car trips into city centres.
green spaces	Task 2	Access to green spaces is associated with better mental health.
population density	Task 2	Higher population density can support efficient public transport.
rural-urban migration	Task 2	Rural-urban migration continues where agricultural incomes remain low.
smart city initiatives	Task 2	Smart city initiatives should prioritise citizen needs over technology for its own sake.
housing speculation	Task 2	Housing speculation can inflate prices beyond local earning power.
last-mile connectivity	Task 2	Poor last-mile connectivity undermines otherwise strong transit systems.

urban heat island	Task 2	The urban heat island effect intensifies summer health risks.
zoning regulations	Task 2	Outdated zoning regulations may block needed housing supply.
social housing	Task 2	Expanded social housing can stabilise rents for vulnerable households.
transit-oriented development	Task 2	Transit-oriented development concentrates homes near high-capacity transit.

Crime, media and society (Task 2)

Justice, media and social cohesion.

Chunk	Task	Example
crime prevention	Task 2	Crime prevention is often more cost-effective than incarceration alone.
rehabilitation of offenders	Task 2	Rehabilitation of offenders reduces reoffending when programmes are well funded.
deterrent effect	Task 2	Harsh sentences have a limited deterrent effect for many offences.
juvenile crime	Task 2	Addressing juvenile crime requires education and community support.
cybercrime	Task 2	Cybercrime increasingly crosses national borders.
freedom of the press	Task 2	Freedom of the press is essential for holding power to account.
media sensationalism	Task 2	Media sensationalism can distort public perceptions of risk.
social cohesion	Task 2	High inequality may weaken social cohesion over time.
civic participation	Task 2	Civic participation declines when citizens feel excluded from decisions.
misinformation online	Task 2	Misinformation online complicates public-health communication.
surveillance cameras	Task 2	Surveillance cameras may deter some crimes while raising privacy concerns.
white-collar crime	Task 2	White-collar crime can cause systemic economic harm.
community sentencing	Task 2	Community sentencing can be appropriate for non-violent offences.
media literacy	Task 2	Media literacy helps citizens evaluate sources critically.
organised crime	Task 2	Combating organised crime requires international cooperation.
public trust	Task 2	Public trust in institutions is difficult to rebuild once lost.
censorship	Task 2	Heavy censorship can suppress legitimate dissent as well as harmful content.
victim support services	Task 2	Victim support services are a necessary complement to prosecution.
advertising regulation	Task 2	Advertising regulation protects consumers from misleading claims.
social media platforms	Task 2	Social media platforms shape political discourse at unprecedented scale.

Global issues and government (Task 2)

Policy, development and international themes.

Chunk	Task	Example
international cooperation	Task 2	International cooperation is indispensable for addressing climate change.
foreign aid	Task 2	Foreign aid is most effective when aligned with local priorities.
trade barriers	Task 2	Trade barriers may protect domestic industries in the short term.
developing countries	Task 2	Developing countries often face capital and technology constraints.
globalisation	Task 2	Globalisation has expanded markets while intensifying competition.
sovereignty	Task 2	National sovereignty can conflict with binding international agreements.
humanitarian crisis	Task 2	A humanitarian crisis demands rapid and coordinated relief.
corruption	Task 2	Corruption diverts public resources and deters investment.
rule of law	Task 2	The rule of law underpins predictable business and civic life.
demographic change	Task 2	Demographic change will reshape pension and healthcare systems.
tax base	Task 2	A broader tax base can fund essential public services more sustainably.
policy implementation	Task 2	Weak policy implementation undermines even well-designed reforms.
human rights	Task 2	Human rights protections should apply equally regardless of citizenship status.
migration flows	Task 2	Migration flows respond to conflict, opportunity and climate stress.
public expenditure	Task 2	Prioritising public expenditure is a political as well as economic choice.
sustainable growth	Task 2	Sustainable growth cannot rely indefinitely on resource extraction.
diplomatic relations	Task 2	Stable diplomatic relations facilitate trade and security cooperation.
income redistribution	Task 2	Income redistribution through taxation can reduce extreme poverty.
governance standards	Task 2	Higher governance standards attract long-term investment.
social safety net	Task 2	A robust social safety net cushions households during crises.

Food, travel and culture (Task 2)

Common essay themes on lifestyle, tourism and heritage.

Chunk	Task	Example
food security	Task 2	Food security depends on stable supply chains and climate resilience.
processed food consumption	Task 2	High processed food consumption is linked to rising obesity rates.
traditional cuisine	Task 2	Traditional cuisine can support cultural identity and local economies.

food waste	Task 2	Reducing food waste is a practical step toward sustainability.
mass tourism	Task 2	Mass tourism can erode the character of historic destinations.
cultural heritage	Task 2	Protecting cultural heritage requires funding beyond tourism revenue.
sustainable tourism	Task 2	Sustainable tourism seeks to limit environmental and social damage.
cultural homogenisation	Task 2	Global brands may accelerate cultural homogenisation in city centres.
local communities	Task 2	Tourism policies should prioritise benefits for local communities.
dietary habits	Task 2	Changing dietary habits can lower both health and environmental costs.
arts funding	Task 2	Public arts funding signals that culture is a shared good.
cultural exchange	Task 2	Study-abroad programmes promote cultural exchange among young people.
overconsumption	Task 2	Overconsumption of resources is incompatible with long-term sustainability.
intangible heritage	Task 2	Languages and festivals form part of intangible heritage.
hospitality industry	Task 2	The hospitality industry is sensitive to economic and health shocks.
tourist infrastructure	Task 2	Expanding tourist infrastructure without limits can damage fragile sites.
authentic experience	Task 2	Demand for an authentic experience can itself commercialise local culture.
seasonal employment	Task 2	Tourism often creates seasonal employment rather than stable careers.
nutrition education	Task 2	Nutrition education in schools can shape lifelong eating patterns.
preserve cultural identity	Task 2	Societies can modernise and still preserve cultural identity.

Task 1: Describing trends

Verbs and phrases for charts showing change over time.

Chunk	Task	Example
rose steadily	Task 1	Sales rose steadily between 2010 and 2015.
increased sharply	Task 1	Energy consumption increased sharply after 2018.
grew gradually	Task 1	The proportion of online shoppers grew gradually over the decade.
climbed to a peak	Task 1	Unemployment climbed to a peak of 12% in 2009.
reached a high of	Task 1	Exports reached a high of $40 billion in 2020.
fell dramatically	Task 1	Coal use fell dramatically after the new regulations.
declined slightly	Task 1	Average household size declined slightly over the period.
dropped to a low of	Task 1	Visitor numbers dropped to a low of 2 million in 2021.
fluctuated around	Task 1	Prices fluctuated around $50 for most of the year.

remained relatively stable	Task 1	The birth rate remained relatively stable throughout the decade.
levelled off	Task 1	Growth levelled off after an initial surge.
stabilised at	Task 1	Inflation stabilised at approximately 2%.
experienced a surge	Task 1	Online enrolment experienced a surge during the pandemic.
witnessed a decline	Task 1	The manufacturing sector witnessed a decline in employment.
showed an upward trend	Task 1	Renewable capacity showed an upward trend from 2012 onwards.
followed a downward trajectory	Task 1	Smoking rates followed a downward trajectory among adults.
more than doubled	Task 1	Mobile subscriptions more than doubled between 2005 and 2015.
halved over the period	Task 1	Coal's share of electricity generation halved over the period.
peaked before falling	Task 1	Tourism revenue peaked before falling in the final year.
plateaued after rising	Task 1	House prices plateaued after rising for five consecutive years.

Task 1: Comparison and proportion

Comparing categories, shares and differences.

Chunk	Task	Example
accounted for	Task 1	Services accounted for over half of total employment.
constituted the majority	Task 1	Women constituted the majority of graduates in that field.
the largest proportion	Task 1	Asia contributed the largest proportion of global output.
a minority of	Task 1	Only a minority of households owned two cars.
in contrast to	Task 1	In contrast to rural areas, cities saw rapid growth.
by comparison	Task 1	By comparison, Country B invested far less in research.
significantly higher than	Task 1	Male participation was significantly higher than female participation.
slightly lower than	Task 1	Costs in 2019 were slightly lower than in 2018.
the second highest	Task 1	Germany recorded the second highest figure in Europe.
almost identical	Task 1	The two categories were almost identical in 2016.
roughly equal	Task 1	Spending on health and education was roughly equal.
three times as high as	Task 1	Imports were three times as high as exports.
the gap narrowed	Task 1	The gap narrowed between urban and rural incomes.
the disparity widened	Task 1	The disparity widened after 2012.
whereas	Task 1	Factory A produced 20 units, whereas Factory B produced 35.
while	Task 1	While coal declined, renewables expanded rapidly.

compared with	Task 1	Compared with 2000, car ownership was far more common.
represented just under	Task 1	Students represented just under a quarter of the population.
made up approximately	Task 1	Tourism made up approximately 15% of GDP.
stood at	Task 1	The unemployment rate stood at 6.5% in December.

Task 1: Process, map and overview

Useful chunks for processes, maps and summaries.

Chunk	Task	Example
overall	Task 1	Overall, energy use increased in all sectors except manufacturing.
it is clear that	Task 1	It is clear that City A expanded more rapidly than City B.
the most striking feature	Task 1	The most striking feature is the sharp rise in online sales.
in the initial stage	Task 1	In the initial stage, raw materials are delivered to the plant.
subsequently	Task 1	The mixture is heated and subsequently cooled.
prior to	Task 1	Prior to packaging, products undergo quality checks.
at the final stage	Task 1	At the final stage, goods are distributed to retailers.
is converted into	Task 1	Waste heat is converted into electricity.
is transported to	Task 1	The liquid is transported to a storage tank.
is located to the north of	Task 1	The new station is located to the north of the park.
was replaced by	Task 1	The farmland was replaced by residential housing.
was converted into	Task 1	The warehouse was converted into a shopping centre.
expanded eastwards	Task 1	The urban area expanded eastwards between 1990 and 2010.
remained unchanged	Task 1	The river course remained unchanged over the period.
was constructed	Task 1	A bridge was constructed across the river.
in terms of	Task 1	In terms of volume, Asia led all other regions.
with regard to	Task 1	With regard to age, the largest group was 25-34.
a similar pattern	Task 1	Europe showed a similar pattern to North America.
the reverse was true	Task 1	For exports the reverse was true.
from the diagram	Task 1	From the diagram, it can be seen that recycling occurs in three stages.

Task 2: Opinion and stance

Claiming, qualifying and structuring views.

Chunk	Task	Example
it is widely argued that	Task 2	It is widely argued that higher education should be free.

I largely agree that	Task 2	I largely agree that public transport should be prioritised over road expansion.
I am of the view that	Task 2	I am of the view that prisons alone cannot solve social problems.
to a large extent	Task 2	To a large extent, diet explains regional differences in health.
this essay will argue that	Task 2	This essay will argue that technology is a tool whose effects depend on regulation.
there is little doubt that	Task 2	There is little doubt that climate change requires urgent action.
it is debatable whether	Task 2	It is debatable whether longer prison sentences reduce crime.
from an economic perspective	Task 2	From an economic perspective, early education offers high returns.
from a social standpoint	Task 2	From a social standpoint, inequality can erode trust.
a more persuasive view is that	Task 2	A more persuasive view is that prevention outweighs punishment.
while it is true that	Task 2	While it is true that tourism creates jobs, the costs can be severe.
this does not mean that	Task 2	This does not mean that governments should ignore private innovation.
on balance	Task 2	On balance, the advantages of remote work outweigh the drawbacks.
I would contend that	Task 2	I would contend that culture should not be preserved in a museum only.
the claim that... is overstated	Task 2	The claim that technology destroys all jobs is overstated.
a nuanced position	Task 2	A nuanced position recognises both individual responsibility and state support.
in my judgment	Task 2	In my judgment, free university tuition should be means-tested.
opponents argue that	Task 2	Opponents argue that higher taxes discourage investment.
proponents maintain that	Task 2	Proponents maintain that censorship protects vulnerable users.
the evidence suggests that	Task 2	The evidence suggests that early intervention improves outcomes.

Task 2: Cause, effect and solutions

Linking problems to causes, effects and remedies.

Chunk	Task	Example
a primary cause of	Task 2	A primary cause of traffic congestion is inadequate public transport.
stem from	Task 2	Many health problems stem from poor diet and inactivity.
as a consequence	Task 2	As a consequence, housing costs have risen beyond local wages.
lead to	Task 2	Extended screen time may lead to sleep disruption.
result in	Task 2	Deforestation can result in soil erosion and flooding.
contribute to	Task 2	Advertising can contribute to unrealistic body ideals.

one effective measure	Task 2	One effective measure would be to subsidise renewable energy.
a viable solution	Task 2	A viable solution is to expand affordable childcare.
address the root cause	Task 2	Policy should address the root cause rather than symptoms alone.
mitigate the impact	Task 2	Green roofs can mitigate the impact of urban heat.
exacerbate the problem	Task 2	Cutting education budgets may exacerbate the problem of skills shortages.
have far-reaching implications	Task 2	Automation may have far-reaching implications for employment.
in the long term	Task 2	In the long term, prevention is cheaper than treatment.
in the short term	Task 2	In the short term, subsidies may be needed to ease the transition.
unless action is taken	Task 2	Unless action is taken, emissions will continue to rise.
a multifaceted approach	Task 2	A multifaceted approach combining law, education and design is required.
thereby	Task 2	Investing in rail can reduce car use, thereby cutting emissions.
this in turn	Task 2	Higher wages increase spending; this in turn supports local businesses.
to tackle this issue	Task 2	To tackle this issue, governments should fund adult reskilling.
alleviate pressure on	Task 2	Better primary care can alleviate pressure on emergency departments.

Both tasks: Academic linkers and precision

Formal connectors and hedging useful in Task 1 and Task 2.

Chunk	Task	Example
furthermore	Both	Furthermore, the data indicate a consistent regional gap.
moreover	Both	Moreover, costs continued to rise after 2015.
however	Both	However, this trend was not uniform across all groups.
nevertheless	Both	Nevertheless, overall figures remained high.
in addition	Both	In addition, rural areas showed little change.
by contrast	Both	By contrast, services expanded throughout the period.
therefore	Both	Therefore, investment in training appears justified.
as a result	Both	As a result, emissions declined after 2012.
in particular	Both	In particular, young adults were most affected.
notably	Both	Notably, female participation rose faster than male participation.
approximately	Both	Approximately one third of respondents preferred option B.
respectively	Both	Figures for 2010 and 2020 were 12% and 18% respectively.
in general	Both	In general, urban areas outperformed rural ones.

to a lesser extent	Both	Manufacturing grew, to a lesser extent, in the same years.
it appears that	Both	It appears that policy changes influenced the later rise.
this suggests that	Both	This suggests that demand outpaced supply.
with the exception of	Both	All regions improved, with the exception of the north.
in other words	Both	In other words, growth was concentrated in a few cities.
for instance	Both	For instance, renewable capacity tripled in a decade.
ultimately	Both	Ultimately, outcomes depend on consistent implementation.

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