♪ I can eat my dinner in a fancy restaurant. But nothing, I said nothing can take away these blues

2.2

4 Grammar: Using noun, verb, and sentence complements

A Study the sentences 1–3 in the grammar box. Find five similar ones in the survey, and write N (noun), V (verb) or S (sentence) next to each. Then check (✔) the correct rules.

> ### Noun, verb, and sentence complements to describe advantages and disadvantages
>
> 1 The problem with cafés **is noise**. (N)
> 2 The good thing about going to one **is being able to sit down**. (V)
> 3 The best thing **is (that) they serve nice food**. (S)
>
> After *is*, the form of the verb is an ☐ **infinitive** ☐ *ing* **form**.
> When a sentence follows *is*, the word *that* ☐ **is** ☐ **isn't** optional.
>
> Be careful with subject-verb agreement, and make sure sentences have a subject!
> **One** of the best things about restaurants **is** good food.
> One disadvantage of **restaurants** is that **they are** often crowded.
>
> **Common mistakes**
>
>   *fruit*   *it has*   *fewer*
> The best thing about ~~fruits~~ (NC) is that ~~they have less~~ calories (C) than chocolate.
>
> Remember that count (C) and non-count (NC) nouns are different!

>> **Grammar expansion p.140**

B Match the sentence halves. Do you agree with the statements?

1 The best thing about energy drinks is ...
2 The problem with fruit is ...
3 The biggest advantage of vegetables is ...
4 The most difficult thing about eating well is ...
5 The worst thing about junk food is ...

a ☐ that it's expensive, especially if it's organic.
b ☐ knowing what's good for you and what isn't.
c ☐ that they help you stay alert.
d ☐ that it's irresistible!
e ☐ vitamins and minerals, but less sugar.

> I definitely agree with the first one. And another good thing about them is ...

C Complete 1–4 with your ideas. In groups, whose were the most original?

1 The best thing about paying taxes is ... , but the worst thing is ...
2 The most difficult thing about studying English is ... , but the most rewarding thing is ...
3 The easiest part of meeting someone new is ... , but the hardest part is ...
4 The biggest advantage of my neighborhood is ... , but the biggest disadvantage is ...

> The best thing about paying taxes is that it feels good to be honest, but ...

D Make it personal Choices and more choices!

1 Note down the pluses and minuses of each choice (a–d). Then make a decision.

a On your birthday, would you rather go out to eat or throw a party at home?
b If you want to see a movie with your family, would you rather go to a theater or watch it on TV?
c If you want a new phone, would you rather buy it unlocked or sign up for a plan?
d On vacation, would you rather lie on the beach, hike in the mountains, or go sightseeing in your city?

2 Find a partner who thinks the opposite. Share your arguments. Use expressions from **A** and **B**. Can you change people's minds?

> Well, the good thing about having a party is that you can invite more people.

> Yes, but it's a lot of work.

3 Finally, take a class vote. Which choices win?

7 Listening

A ▶ 2.7 Listen to three friends discussing a news report. Who's most convinced that intelligent alien life exists, Theo or Ruby?

FORUMS   **NEWS TODAY**

Mars attacks: Third UFO sighting in a week spreads panic in small Mexican town

B ▶ 2.7 Listen again and check (✔) the name(s). In pairs, share your opinion on these statements.

Who believes ...	Theo	Judd	Ruby
1 most UFO stories have a lot in common?		✔	✔
2 it's likely that there's some extraterrestrial life?			
3 maybe aliens talk to each other mentally?			
4 the pyramids were built by aliens?			
5 there's a lot of reliable evidence that aliens do exist?			
6 it's likely that if aliens exist, they are physically similar to us?			

C ▶ 2.8 Read the excerpts in the speech bubbles and guess Theo's story. Then listen and number the speech balloons (1–6). How close were you to guessing Theo's story?

1 So I thought, "There must be someone following me."

Oh, come on! It can't have been a vacuum cleaner.

Walking the dog after midnight? You can't be serious!

You're saying it might have been a joke?

The whole thing must have been planned.

A toy? Yeah, that could explain the whole thing.

Let's see. It was late at night, and he thought somebody was following him. So he was walking outside, right?

Yeah, but what about the vacuum cleaner? What does it have to do with the rest of the story?

10 Listening

A ▶2.10 Answer 1–4 in the IQ quiz as fast as you can. Listen to two friends to check. For you, which was the hardest question?

B ▶2.11 Listen to the rest of their conversation. Circle a or b.

1 Carol thinks IQ tests …
  a are boring.
  b have more disadvantages than advantages.

2 Flavio …
  a doesn't have strong feelings for or against IQ tests.
  b sees many advantages to IQ tests.

IQ QUIZ

1 Which number should come next in this series: 25, 24, 22, 19, 15 …?

2 *Library* is to *book* as *book* is to …
  A copy B page C cover D bookshop

3 Mary, who is 16 years old, is four times as old as her brother. How old will Mary be when she is twice as old as her brother?

4 Which of the following diagrams doesn't belong?
  A   B   C   D

C ▶2.11 Listen again and complete 1–6 with one to three words.

Advantages	Disadvantages
1 Internet IQ tests are *fun* .	4 They focus on specifics like _____ .
2 They _____ your brain.	5 They pay no attention to your _____ .
3 They can help teens _____ .	6 They might negatively affect your _____ .

D 🛜 Go online and take an IQ quiz in English and check your score. Is there an argument in **C** you strongly (dis)agree with?

> **Common mistakes**
>
>   *took*   *got*   *stands for*
> I ~~made~~ one of those online tests and ~~took~~ a perfect score. IQ ~~signifies~~ Intelligence Quotient.

11 Keep talking

A Choose a question 1–6. Note down two advantages, two disadvantages, and your conclusion.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of …
  1 being considered the family genius?
  2 getting into college when you're very young?
  3 being rich and famous?
  4 being extremely good-looking?
  5 being very tall?
  6 being an only child?

B **How to say it** Share your views in groups using the expressions in the chart. Who has the best arguments?

Advantages	Disadvantages	Agreeing / Disagreeing
One of the best things about … is (that) … Another plus is (that) …	The trouble with … is (that) … Another problem with … is (that) …	Absolutely! That's one way to look at it. I wouldn't be so sure.

> I think being an only child has more advantages than disadvantages. For one thing you get a lot of attention.

> Well, I wouldn't be so sure. The trouble with being an only child is you're lonely.