

The rooster is crowing.

subject →

verb

My friend loves dogs.

subject verb object

Paragraphs

Unit Two



How is a paragraph structured?

Do you know how to structure a paragraph? Drag these sections of a typical paragraph into the correct order.

1

Body of the paragraph – between two and five sentences that develop the topic.

2

Concluding sentence – sums up the paragraph and leads into the next paragraph.

3

Topic sentence – tells the reader what the paragraph will be about.

?

solve

C

↺

When writing nonfiction, you can use **topic sentences** to begin your paragraphs. A topic sentence introduces the topic that the paragraph will be about.

The body of your paragraph should then contain a number of sentences that develop the subject you have introduced in the first sentence.

You can develop your paragraphs by:

- using description, background information and **examples** to strengthen an idea or argument
- grouping sentences **chronologically**
- making comparisons of ideas or things using **connectives**.



You can develop paragraphs by using examples to support your ideas.

This student has been using examples to develop her paragraphs in an essay about the school dress code.



Another reason I don't like the school dress code is that it is impractical. For example...

Write two or three sentences to follow on from this topic sentence.

You should vary the lengths of your sentences to ensure that your paragraph is interesting to read.

1

2

3

4

5

Read the paragraph on tab 1 and then work through the questions on the other tabs. It is taken from an essay debating whether students should be allowed to eat candy in the classroom. The writer is in favor.



Grouping sentences chronologically

It is important to order the sentences in your paragraph in a logical way.

If you are writing a story or describing a sequence (such as a science experiment or a recipe), the order of the sentences is provided by the sequence of events.

For example:

1. Preparing the cupcake mix
2. Baking the mixture
3. Decorating the cupcakes



When we write about an event or process in the order in which it occurs, we call this **chronological writing**.

When else might you need to describe something chronologically?



Grouping sentences chronologically



**Write two chronological paragraphs
describing your day so far.**



If you are producing non-chronological writing, you have to arrange your sentences in another way to develop the topic of your paragraph.

Making comparisons of different things and ideas is an effective way to develop a paragraph.

Imagine you are writing a paragraph comparing two ideas that had been put forward for a new sports facility in your school.



How would you organize the paragraph?

Rearrange the sentences on the next slide to form a well-ordered paragraph.



Sort the stages of the paragraph into the correct order.

- 1 Background information
- 2 Introduction to the topic
- 3 Disadvantages of first idea
- 4 Advantages of second idea
- 5 Concluding statements
- 6 Disadvantages of second idea
- 7 Advantages of first idea



solve



Look at this student's paragraph which compares food and drink in France and Germany.

There are some similarities and differences between French and German food and drink. French meats are often flavored with garlic and herbs. French people eat lots of bread and cheese. German people eat lots of bread and sausages. German meats are often smoked and salted. A lot of wine, champagne and some beer is drunk in France. A lot of beer and some wine is drunk in Germany. I would prefer to eat French food rather than German food.

How could this paragraph be improved?

The paragraph could be improved by adding **connectives**. These are words and short phrases which will create links between the things being compared.

It is easier to follow sentences which are linked because they guide readers by showing them how the ideas are related.

Here are some connectives you can use to create links:

because

however

on the other hand

and

in contrast

also

for example

whereas

therefore

furthermore

similarly

besides

but

despite

Making comparisons



Now look at the paragraph comparing French and German food and drink with the connectives added.

There are some similarities and differences between French and German food and drink. French meats are often flavored with garlic and herbs, **whereas** German meats are often smoked and salted. French people eat lots of bread and cheese. German people **also** eat lots of bread, **however** they eat lots of sausages **instead** of lots of cheese. A lot of wine, champagne and some beer is drunk in France. **In contrast**, a lot of beer and some wine is drunk in Germany. **In conclusion**, I would prefer to eat French food rather than German food.

The connectives help to show readers the similarities and differences between the two foods and the phrase 'in conclusion' introduces the closing statement.

After you have developed a paragraph it is important to link it smoothly to the next paragraph to guide your reader.

The second paragraph needs to develop the ideas of the first paragraph and so on. This will help your writing to flow.

One way of linking paragraphs is to use **pronouns** (**he**, **she**, **they**, **it** etc.) to refer back to someone or something mentioned in an earlier paragraph.

Another way of creating a sequence of paragraphs is by **referring backwards** to previous paragraphs and **forwards** to future paragraphs by using **connectives**.

Look in a fiction or nonfiction book. Can you find an example of pronouns or connectives being used at the start of a paragraph?



Read the paragraphs below and press on the five key connectives. What is the purpose of each one?

Many doctors and scientists have studied the effects of smoking on the human body. Their results show that people who smoke, or inhale secondhand smoke, have a much higher risk of developing many diseases. For example, smoking can cause some cancers, emphysema and angina.

Also, the risk of contracting one of the diseases mentioned is directly proportional to the length of time and amount that a person has smoked.



show all



Writing activity

