

A. PARAGRAPH CONSTRUCTION

1. Read the following information about how to write a good paragraph.

1. You should develop paragraphs that are easy to read and communicate the message to the reader.

2. Focus on making a good topic sentence at the beginning. The topic sentence is usually the first sentence of the paragraph and tells us what the paragraph is about. In other words, it conveys the message the writer wants to give the reader. To give the paragraph unity, all the other sentences should relate to this sentence.

3. Next come the supporting sentences. They give the reader some details about the topic. A good writer supports his message by including facts, examples, definitions, comparisons, contrasts, illustrative incidents, quotations, a listing of parts, or a reasoning process.

4. You must end your paragraph with an effective concluding sentence. It tells the reader the main idea of the paragraph.

5. Remember, order matters too. Arrange your sentences logically. Use words like “firstly,” “secondly,” “finally,” “but,” “and,” “also,” “however,” “therefore,” “because,” “moreover,” etc. to connect ideas smoothly.

In short, a good paragraph has a clear main point, supporting sentences that flow well together to back it up and a good concluding sentence to summarize the message.

2. As mentioned above, most paragraphs have three main parts.

1. A topic sentence
2. Supporting sentences
3. A concluding sentence

3. Read the following paragraph.

Export plays a vital role in developing a country in many fields. First, it provides the country with the foreign currency it needs for imports. Furthermore, it creates job opportunities, not only in their own country but also in other countries. It is a good chance to introduce the country worldwide. So, export is an inevitable element in the progress of a country.

1. The first sentence is called the topic sentence. This sentence tells the reader what the paragraph is about.

Topic sentence: Export plays a vital role in developing a country in many fields.

2. Next come the supporting sentences. These sentences use facts, examples, descriptions, etc. to explain the topic sentence. There are three supporting sentences in the paragraph above.

Supporting sentences: First, it provides the country with the foreign currency it needs for imports. Furthermore, it creates job opportunities, not only in their own country but also in other countries. It is a good chance to introduce the country worldwide.

3. The last sentence of the paragraph is called the concluding sentence. It ties together all of the sentences in a paragraph. (It restates the topic sentence or summarizes the paragraph.)

Concluding sentence: So, export is an inevitable element in the progress of a country.

B. ANALYSING THE PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH

1. Read the following paragraph and underline the topic sentence, the supporting and concluding sentences.

Whenever I need something, I first go to Dawson's store. They sell just about everything there. You can buy clothes there, things for the house, the garden, and sports equipment. They stock a wide variety of goods. Everything is of good quality, and the prices are reasonable. It is the best place to shop in the village.

2. Read the following paragraph and notice how the writer uses examples to support his topic sentence.

I am very worried about my best friend, Tony, because he is the most indifferent person I have ever known. He doesn't care about anything. For example, he never feels sad when he gets a low exam mark. He thinks that he can do it better in the following ones. Tony doesn't feel upset when his girlfriend leaves him for another boy. He says he can find another one. The last time he had an accident in his brand-new Porsche, he went home, got his spare car and drove it for some time. He was not at all sorry for the other driver. I hope his attitude towards life won't create severe problems for him in the future.

3. Now read more paragraphs.

Antalya is an excellent place to have a holiday. Firstly, it is always sunny and hot in summer but never freezing in winter. Secondly, it is famous for its beaches along the sea. There are also a lot of good restaurants in Antalya which serve delicious food. Finally, some big hotels offer terrific entertainment nightly. You will never regret having a holiday in Antalya.

My old car has caused me a lot of problems recently. Firstly, it uses too much petrol. Secondly, the seats are uncomfortable, so my back hurts when I drive it. It is also very slow and old. Finally, it often breaks down and leaves me on the way. I wish I could buy a new car.

I like my new job. First of all, the work is very interesting. I learn new things every day and I get to travel a lot. Secondly, my boss is very nice. He's always willing to help me when I have a problem. I have also made many new friends at my job. Finally, the salary is fantastic. I don't want to lose my job.

Some technological devices, such as radio, television, mobile phones, and computers, make it easier to access information. Thanks to these devices, ideas and news of events spread quickly all over the world. For example, people can know the results of an election in Japan or Argentina within seconds. An international soccer match comes into the home of everyone with a television set. News of a disaster, such as an earthquake or a flood, can bring help from distant countries. Within hours, help is on the way. Information travels fast because of modern technology like the 4,000 satellites that travel around the world.

People have various superstitions. Some people believe that the number 13 is unlucky and brings bad luck. Others don't like black cats because they think something bad will happen when they see one walking before them. Some people put horseshoes on their houses' doors or walls because they think they bring good luck. I respect people with superstitions, but I don't know whether I believe in them.

C. NOW YOU WRITE

1. Choose one of the following topics and write a paragraph. Remember to support your paragraphs with examples and use linking words and useful phrases.

- Having a car has a lot of advantages.
- Today, the internet is an indispensable part of our lives.
- There are some things to do to prevent or reduce road accidents.