

Paragraph

20 Paragraph

A paragraph is a group of sentences that form a unit. Sentences in a paragraph are organized, coherent, and are all related to a single topic.

20.1 Paragraph Format

A paragraph does not have a minimum or maximum number of sentences. A paragraph usually contains more than one sentence. A typical paragraph has 5-7 sentences, but this is by no means a rule. The length is determined by the topic and the content.

There is a general agreement on the format of a standard paragraph, which especially applies to informational and argumentative or persuasive writing. A paragraph is divided into three distinct sections that each serve a purpose to the paragraph as a whole.

Topic Sentence – The topic sentence is the sentence that lays out a preview of what the paragraph will be about. It is a preview of the paragraph. It puts the reader's mind-set into the right place to digest the information.

Supporting Sentence – The supporting sentence is the most important part of the paragraph and provides details to support the topic sentence. If the topic sentence is about frogs, then the details should be about frogs as well. This section can be longer or shorter depending on the content and the writer's preference.

Concluding Sentence – The concluding sentence wraps up the paragraph and ties back to the topic sentence. A conclusion could be a reiteration of the topic, an opinion based on the topic, or a way to wrap up the paragraph with a more general statement.

Example paragraph that follows the basic paragraph format:

There are different kinds of animals which live in China.	⇒ Topic Sentence	} Paragraph
Tigers and leopards are the animals that live in China's forests in the north. In the jungles, monkeys swing in the trees, and elephants walk through the brush. The cities in China are filled with millions of people. There are camels in the deserts that people use for transportation.	⇒ Supporting Sentences	
Lots of different kinds of animals make their home in China.	⇒ Concluding Sentence	

In the example paragraph, the topic sentence states the paragraph's main idea. The reader can rightfully assume that the content will have to do with animals in China.

The supporting sentences are separated into sentences that give more specific information about animals which live in China. Each detail directly supports the main topic.

The concluding sentence restates the topic sentence in a slightly different way to help wrap up the paragraph.

The strike through sentence in the paragraph is important to note because it is a detail that does not relate closely enough to the topic sentence to be included in the essay. While the sentence does mention China, it would be better placed under a paragraph about people in China or the cities of China.

There is often some confusion about what the difference is between a paragraph and an essay. A paragraph is made up of a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence. An essay has all the same parts; only instead of sentences, an essay is made up of paragraphs.

20.2 Four Types of Paragraphs

20.2.1 Narrative Paragraph

A narrative paragraph tells a story of a certain event and gives details that relate to the event being told. In this type of writing the author narrates *the tale of an event or experience*. It has a suitable *beginning, middle, and conclusion*.

Transitions Used in Narrative Paragraphs

after	eventually	first	while
as	finally	second	soon
at last	first	now	then
before	last	since	when
during	later	next	meanwhile

Example Paragraph – Childhood Memories

When I was a small kid, I always loved spending my summer vacation at my grandparents' house in Quetta. There was something magical about the way the sunset was. It hid itself behind the rolling hills. What I witnessed were the dancing fireflies dancing in the night sky. I would spend my days exploring the fields and collecting wildflowers, and my evenings sitting on the porch swing with my grandmother, listening to her stories about growing up in a small town. But my favourite part of the vacation was the old apple tree in the orchard. It was gnarled and twisted, with branches that seemed to reach up to the heavens. I would spend hours perching on one of its lower branches, reading my favourite books and dreaming of all the adventures that lay ahead. Even now, years later, I can still recall the way the bark felt beneath my fingers and the sweet, tangy taste of the apples that I would pluck from its

branches. That old apple tree was my refuge and my sanctuary, and it will always hold a special place in my heart. I really love it so much and can never forget it.

20.2.2 Descriptive Paragraph

A descriptive paragraph gives details about a person, place, thing, or idea. The topic sentence states what is being described and the details relate to that topic. This is a piece of writing that **paints a vivid and accurate image** of the subject. A description is an act of **expressing your sentiments** about someone or something in words, generally **using the five senses: touch, hearing, sight, taste, and smell**.

Depending on the aim of the description, any of the organizational order — *time, space, or importance* — can be used. You can utilize *temporal sequence* if you're writing to convey the major impression of an event (for example, a description of fireworks, an explosion, or a storm). If you're describing how someone or something appears, the most frequent technique to structure a description is to utilize *space order*. You might utilize the order of priority and save the most important detail for last, if a detail within your subject is the most important.

Transitions Used in Descriptive Paragraphs

Transitions of Time	Transitions of Space	Transitions of Importance
as at last before/after during eventually	above across at the bottom/top behind below	especially in particular
finally first last later meanwhile	beneath beside beyond farther/further in front of	more/ even more most
next now second since soon	inside near next to opposite over	most vivid
then when while	to the left/right to the side under/underneath where	strongest

Example Paragraph – The Room

The room I found myself in was very spacious and high. The windows were long, narrow, and pointed. The faint red light of the club passed through the concentrated panes, and served to distinguish enough of the brightest objects around; the eye, however, struggled in vain to reach the far corners of the room or the edge of the curved and distressed roof of the house. Dark curtains hung on the walls. Ordinary furniture was extravagant, luxurious, antique and durable. Many books and musical instruments were scattered all over the place, but they failed to give strength to the scene. I felt as if I were breathing a spirit of grief. A spirit of darkness, deep and unforgivable, hung over everyone.

20.2.3 Expository Paragraph

An expository paragraph gives information, explains something, gives directions or shows how something happens. The detailed sentences in expository paragraphs often have linking words such as first, next, then, or after.

In expository paragraphs, examples are frequently arranged in order of relevance, which means that the example that will have the most influence on readers is reserved until the last. We use transitions to let readers navigate from one example to the next. To organize this paragraph structure, use transitions inside each paragraph and also go from one to the next.

Transitions Used in Expository Paragraphs

another; one/another	for example
another kind	for instance
first, second, third	and so on

Example Paragraph – Time Management

Every college student needs to develop time management skills to succeed in life, both personally and academically. Students who can prioritize their tasks and fulfil deadlines tend to perform better academically and experience less stress. Students who struggle with time management can make a timetable or to-do list that divides their day into time slots for various tasks. They can also develop the ability to refuse interruptions and give priority to their most critical work. By scheduling enough time for studying, homework, and extracurricular activities, students can avoid procrastination. Students should also prioritize their physical and emotional well-being by getting enough rest, exercising, and mastering relaxation techniques. By scheduling their time wisely, college students can achieve academic success. In this way, you can live a healthy and wealthy long life full of joy.

20.2.4 Persuasive/Argumentative Paragraph

An argumentative paragraph, sometimes called a persuasive paragraph, is a paragraph where the topic sentence takes a specific position or request. The details of a persuasive paragraph are written to prove why the argument is valid. This kind of writing backs up a topic, with *facts* to influence someone else to adopt or consider a viewpoint. Arguments are used to persuade someone to do (or not do) something. Because an argument aids in persuading others to see things your way, or at the very least to comprehend your point of view.

Arguments are arranged in *order of significance*, with the least important *evidence* coming first and the most *persuasive rationale* and evidence coming last. Here are some examples of transitions you may utilize in your presentation.

Transitions Used in Persuasive/Argumentative Paragraphs

above all	more important
also	most important
best of all	one fact/
especially	another fact
for example	one reason/ another reason
in addition	one thing/
in fact	another thing remember
in particular	worst of all
in the first (second, third) place	the first (second, third) point

Example Paragraph – Eating Natural Foods

Consuming natural foods is not only morally and responsibly right, but it is also healthful. Natural food consumption helps encourage ethical agricultural methods and lowers our diet's carbon footprint. Additionally, natural foods are devoid of the toxic additives, preservatives, and chemicals that are frequently included in processed meals. This implies that by deciding to eat natural foods, we are enhancing our general health and well-being, and are lowering our chances of contracting chronic diseases like heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. Also, natural foods are frequently tastier and more filling than their processed equivalents, making it simpler to enjoy a diet which is nutrient-dense and well-balanced. We may have a good influence on our health, the environment and animals' welfare by preferring natural foods.

20.3 Sample Paragraphs

20.3.1 Spring Season

Spring is the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. The days get longer and nights shorter, the temperatures are milder, and the flowers bloom. There is a gentle wind that blows making the atmosphere wonderful. Spring is the season that brings new life to trees, plants and flowers. During spring one can hear the buzzing of bees, chirping of birds and can see the colourful butterflies sitting over sweet-scented flowers. This season brings happiness, motivation, and positivity to all people and brings sunshine into the lives of people. It's a season of pleasant weather free from the scorching heat, the cold bites or dodgy rains. It is therefore crowned as the king of all the seasons.

20.3.2 My Best Friend

Having a true friend is a precious gift and a divine blessing of Allah. I am lucky to have many true friends. Among all, the one who is my best friend is Ali. He has been with me since class one. He is very friendly and has a kind nature. His good sense of humour makes him popular among everyone. He is one of the best students in our class. He is punctual and he always comes to college on time. Both of us share the love for reading and enjoy reading books on history the most. We also exchange books with each other and discuss them in our free time. We study and play together. Whenever I feel sad or depressed, he is there to help me cheer up my mood. In short, the bond that I share with my best friend is the most prized possession I have. A best friend is indeed a precious gem and I am fortunate to have found that gem in my life.

20.3.3 My Favourite Personality

Everyone has one favourite person in his life that he can always rely on. I am fortunate to have one such person in my life who is none other than my father. He has always been a source of motivation and inspiration in my life. I have seen him working hard since my childhood to provide us with the best of everything. He has always been caring and loving. He is the one who has helped me become a better person. The quality of my father that I admire the most is that he has always kept a very safe and friendly environment at home. We are never scared of talking or discussing any issue with him. He would always listen to us and give us his best advice. In fact, he is my best friend who is not only loving and caring but he is always there for me, no matter who he is. He is the best one in the world.

20.3.4 My Hobby

Life would be dull if one did not have some good hobby. A good hobby keeps us active and creative. It kills monotony and makes a person happy. Reading is what I do in my spare time. This hobby of mine not only brings me pleasure but also increases my knowledge. It

improves my vocabulary and writing skills. I have a great collection of books ranging from history and politics to novels, short stories and poetry. I am also a member of various libraries. Though I read all sorts of books. I particularly take more interest in books related to history. It gives me insight into the happenings around the world and provides a link to the past. Through reading history books, I have learnt a lot about the evolution of the cultures and traditions of many countries. Reading is a good brain exercise.

20.3.5 A Hot Day in Summer

It was a sultry and scorching summer's day. The sun glowed red hot, emitting sizzling bright rays. There was quietness all over. Not a single person could be seen outside. The roads and streets almost presented a deserted look. Fans and cold drinks gave no relief. Everybody was perspiring from head to toe. People preferred to stay indoors. It was so hot and things were at such a standstill that not even a leaf stirred anywhere. The plants and trees presented a withered look. It appeared as if the wind had conspired not to blow. Everyone wanted to get rid of this heat. Such hot summer days make people uncomfortable.

20.3.6 Mobile Phone

Technological advancement has made the life of modern man easier and more convenient. The major breakthrough is in the field of communication. From simple telephones to cellular phones, the distances have further reduced and the world has come closer. It is a very useful device that works without wire and is portable also. It can make and receive calls over a radio frequency link and connects people in no time. It provides a platform for communication with an individual's family and friends, no matter where they are. Mobile phones provide various facilities like cameras, internet, e-banking and much more. With mobile phones, one never feels lonely or bored.

20.3.7 Corruption

Corruption is the root cause of a country's weak political, social as well as economic system. It is a curse for society. It hampers the growth of the nation and is a great deterrent to the progress and prosperity of a country. Factors which encourage systematic corruption include conflicting incentives, discretionary powers, monopolistic powers, lack of transparency, low pay and a culture of impunity. Thus, it hurts the growth of each individual in the country. It is a great evil of a society which needs to be eliminated at every cost. It is a poison that has penetrated the minds of individuals nowadays. Strict measures should be taken by the government to ensure a corruption-free country.

20.3.8 Terrorism

Terrorism is an act that aims at creating fear among the people by illegal means. It is a threat to humanity. It includes persons or groups spreading violence, riot, kidnapping, bombing,

etc. It makes people suffer traumatic stress disorders, anxiety and major depression. It is generally believed that poverty, inequality, and poor economic conditions are among the root causes of terrorism. It jeopardizes the happiness and peace of the people in a country. The purpose of terrorism is to achieve political or ideological aims by spreading unrest and lawlessness. Terrorism is an act of cowardice.

20.3.9 Smog

Smog is air pollution that reduces visibility. The term smog was first introduced in the early 1900s to describe a mixture of smoke and fog. Smog is usually caused by the combustion of coal, wood and other solid fuels. Smog is very common in industrial areas and it remains a familiar sight in cities, particularly in the winter. Smog inhalation irritates our airways and increases our risk of serious heart and lung diseases. It is due to these health hazards that cities monitor smog levels. On a high ozone-alert day, eyes and throat may burn, resulting in cough and wheeze. It is of utmost importance that people should take positive steps to control smog so that they can live in a healthy environment.

20.3.10 Poverty

Poverty is about not having enough money to meet basic needs including food, clothing and shelter. The World Bank Organization describes poverty in this way: "Poverty is hunger." Poverty is a source of problems and pain in human life. Owing to poverty people live their entire life in the absence of essential commodities. A poverty-stricken person can neither meet his needs nor that of his family. Poverty always acts as a barrier on the path to his happiness. Poverty limits access to educational and employment opportunities which further contribute to income inequalities. This menace can be eliminated through equity, education, and resilience.