

USING PARAGRAPHS

TO IMPROVE OUR WRITING



What are paragraphs?

- A paragraph is a group of sentences about one main idea.

Why do we use paragraphs?

- They break up long chunks of writing, making it clearer and more interesting for the reader.
- They provide a clear structure and order to our writing.
- If we do not use paragraphs we cannot get above a level 4.



When to start a new paragraph:

- Start a new paragraph when you move to a new period of **time**.
- Start a new paragraph when you move on to a new **topic** or subject.
- **Talk**-start a new paragraph when you bring a new person into your writing, or when you change from one person to another (especially when writing conversation.)



Remember:

TIME

TOPIC

TALK



How to show a paragraph break:

- To clearly show where a new paragraph begins we have to indent the first line.

Notice that the first word is indented- it starts further in, leaving a gap so that the new paragraph is easily seen.

◆ We left school at 7.30 in the morning to get to Paignton Zoo for 9 am. The teachers told us to take our bags with us...

OR

You should leave a line in between your paragraphs.

Which ever you choose, be consistent.



My Account of the school trip to the Zoo

We left school at 7.30 in the morning on a big old coach to get to Paignton Zoo for 9am. Whilst we were on the coach the teachers told us to take our bags with us and gave us our instructions for the day. When we finally arrived at the Zoo we were allowed to go and see the animals straight away. The first stop was the tiger's cage. The tigers were huge and ferocious looking, the teachers would not let us stay there for long. Next we went to see the snakes. The snakes were having a feed and were eating mice. The girls started screaming hysterically after watching the snake devour the mouse. Consequently teachers decided it was time to stop for lunch! A few hours later we went to see the elephants having a wash. This was the highlight of my day because the elephant shook water all over us- it was very funny. We got back to school late, we were all tired but happy. "This is my favourite school trip ever!" said my friend Jimmy. "Mine too' I agreed. It really had been a fantastic day.

My Account of the school trip to the Zoo

We left school at 7.30 in the morning on a big old coach to get to Paignton Zoo for 9am. Whilst we were on the coach the teachers told us to take our bags with us and gave us our instructions for the day.

Change of time and place.

↳ When we finally arrived at the Zoo we were allowed to go and see the animals straight away. The first stop was the tiger's cage. The tigers were huge and ferocious looking, the teachers would not let us stay there for long.

Time ← Next we went to see the snakes. The snakes were having a feed and were eating mice. The girls started screaming hysterically after watching the snakes devour the mice. Consequently the teachers decided it was time to stop for lunch!

Time ← A few hours later we went to see the elephants having a wash. This was the highlight of my day because the elephant shook water all over us- it was very funny.

Time ← We got back to school late, we were all tired but happy.

Talk ← "This is my favourite school trip ever" said my friend Jimmy. "Mine too" I agreed. It really had been a fantastic day.

To make your paragraphs even better you can:

- Use a **topic sentence** to introduce the central idea or topic of the paragraph.
- The topic sentence often comes at the beginning of the paragraph.
- It tells the reader what the paragraph is about.
- All the other sentences in the paragraph are related to the topic sentence. They further explain or support the main topic of the paragraph.



Examples of some Topic Sentences:

Rats make excellent pets and can be easily and cheaply bought. If you wish to buy a rat you should contact an official breeder or go to a good pet shop...

There are three reasons why Canada is one of the best countries in the world. First, Canada has an excellent health care service...

An island with a cool climate can be very difficult to survive on. For example, the weather, especially snow, can lead to below minus temperatures making it difficult to...



And Finally...

- Paragraphs can be linked to help your writing flow.
- Paragraphs can be linked by numbers:
In the first place...
secondly...
The third point...
- Paragraphs can be linked by connectives:
Although this is true...
However...
To sum up...
Finally...
Meanwhile

