

# Paragraph Writing



**Nada Vukadinović**



# Paragraph writing on-line

**In this unit you will learn how to compose a paragraph and how to use sentence connectors.**



# Writing a paragraph – why?

- Writing paragraphs is an important writing skill which you need to acquire before you start writing essays or reports. This activity is a kind of a pre-step to writing a project report, which you will need to complete at the end of the term.



# Activities

- Simply follow the instructions given further on.  
All the necessary materials are available on-line.
- You need to have Internet access to complete the activities.
- To complete the tasks it will probably take you from 2-3 hours.
- When you are finished, submit your work to your teachers and you will receive feedback from them.



# Interaction

- Should you need any help or clarification, please contact your respective teacher at:
  - [Vida.vidmar@guest.arnes.si](mailto:Vida.vidmar@guest.arnes.si)
  - or
  - [Irena.skulj@guest.arnes.si](mailto:Irena.skulj@guest.arnes.si)



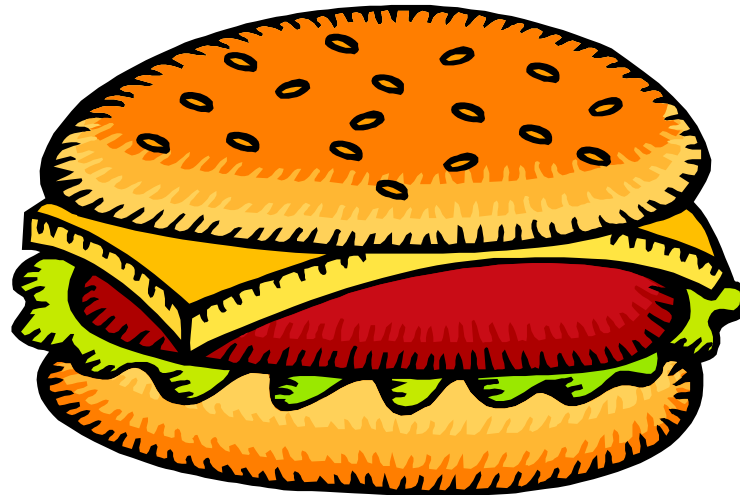
# What is a paragraph?

- A good paragraph is a unit of writing and should have a clear and logical structure.
- In a paragraph you can describe, classify, explain (e.g. function, sequence), compare and contrast things.
- A paragraph consists of the topic and supporting sentences.
- The sentences in a paragraph are connected with the so called sentence connectors.



# Topic and supporting

A cheeseburger can be considered as a paragraph: the bun contains the main idea, other ingredients give a unique taste to it. Ingredients like cheese, meat and pickles somehow enrich and support the main element.



Adapted from: <http://www.gigglepotz.com/para.htm>



# Paragraph: an example

**Read this example first:**

## **Why I want to Learn English**

**There are three reasons why I want to learn English. One reason is that English has become an international language. It is now used by most international companies, including the company where I work, for business communication. Another reason why I want to learn English is so that I can travel to English-speaking countries. The United States, England, Australia and many other countries all use English as their primary language. Finally, I want to learn English because I plan to move to the U.S. in the future. I will become a manager for my company soon. For all these reasons, I am very excited about learning English.**

**(Source: <http://www.english-zone.com/writing/strctr-quiz.html>)**

**Q: What is the “bun” in this burger?**

**And what are other ingredients which describe this burger?**





# Paragraph Structure

Click on each caption:

1. Topic sentence

2. First main point

3. Second main point

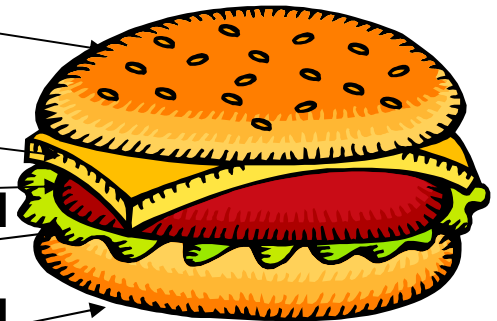
4. Third main point

5. Conclusion

Support detail

Support detail

Support detail



# Topic sentence

There are three reasons why I want to learn English. One reason is that English has become an international language. It is now used by most international companies, including the company where I work, for business communication. Another reason why I want to learn English is so that I can travel to English-speaking countries. The United States, England, Australia and many other countries all use English as their primary language. Finally, I want to learn English because I plan to move to the U.S. in the future. I will become a manager for my company soon. For all these reasons, I am very excited about learning English.



# First main point/supporting detail

There are three reasons why I want to learn English. One reason is that English has become an international language. It is now used by most international companies, including the company where I work, for business communication. Another reason why I want to learn English is so that I can travel to English-speaking countries. The United States, England, Australia and many other countries all use English as their primary language. Finally, I want to learn English because I plan to move to the U.S. in the future. I will become a manager for my company soon. For all these reasons, I am very excited about learning English.



## Second supporting point

There are three reasons why I want to learn English. One reason is that English has become an international language. It is now used by most international companies, including the company where I work, for business communication. Another reason why I want to learn English is so that I can travel to English-speaking countries. The United States, England, Australia and many other countries all use English as their primary language. Finally, I want to learn English because I plan to move to the U.S. in the future. I will become a manager for my company soon. For all these reasons, I am very excited about learning English.



## Third supporting point

There are three reasons why I want to learn English. One reason is that English has become an international language. It is now used by most international companies, including the company where I work, for business communication. Another reason why I want to learn English is so that I can travel to English-speaking countries. The United States, England, Australia and many other countries all use English as their primary language. Finally, I want to learn English because I plan to move to the U.S. in the future. I will become a manager for my company soon. For all these reasons, I am very excited about learning English.



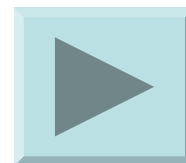
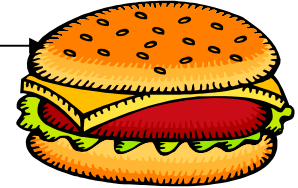
# Conclusion

There are three reasons why I want to learn English. One reason is that English has become an international language. It is now used by most international companies, including the company where I work, for business communication. Another reason why I want to learn English is so that I can travel to English-speaking countries. The United States, England, Australia and many other countries all use English as their primary language. Finally, I want to learn English because I plan to move to the U.S. in the future. I will become a manager for my company soon. **For all these reasons, I am very excited about learning English.**



# What is a topic sentence?

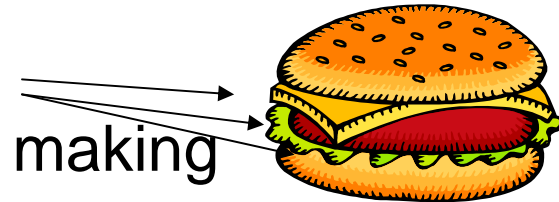
- **What is the topic sentence?**  
The topic sentence is the first sentence in a paragraph.
- **What does it do?**  
It introduces the main idea of the paragraph.
- **How do I write one?**  
Summarize the main idea of your paragraph. Indicate to the reader what your paragraph will be about.



# What are supporting sentences

## **What are supporting sentences?**

They come after the topic sentence, making up the body of a paragraph.



## **What do they do?**

They give details to develop and support the main idea of the paragraph.

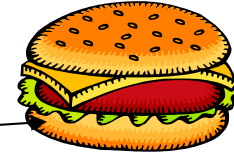
## **How do I write them?**

You should give supporting facts, details, and examples.





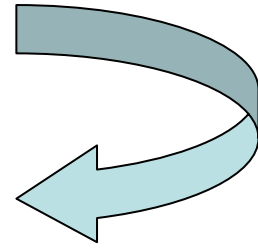
# Closing sentence



- **What is the closing sentence?**  
The closing sentence is the last sentence in a paragraph.
- **What does it do?**  
It restates the main idea of your paragraph.
- **How do I write one?**  
Restate the main idea of the paragraph using different words.



# Getting started



**Visit this web page first and see the example.**

**Click here:**

**[http://www2.actden.com/writ\\_den/tips/paragrap/](http://www2.actden.com/writ_den/tips/paragrap/)**



# Study this site before you start

Have a look  
at these:

**PARAGRAPHS**

*Parts of a Paragraph*

- Topic Sentence
- Supporting Details
- Closing Sentence


*How to Write a Paragraph*

- Prewriting Paragraphs
- Writing Paragraphs
- Editing Paragraphs
- Publishing Paragraphs

*Kinds of Paragraphs*

- Definition
- Classification
- Description
- Compare and Contrast
- Sequence
- Choice
- Explanation
- Evaluation

**Click here:** <http://www2.actden.com/writing/tips/paragraph/>



# Sentence connectors

What are they?

- Sentence connectors provide connection between sentences. If you use sentence connectors, the ideas in a paragraph will flow smoothly from one sentence to the next.



# Sentence connectors

Look at this text again and see how the sentences are connected:

## Why I want to Learn English

There are three reasons why I want to learn English. **One** reason is that English has become an international language. It is now used by most international companies, including the company where I work, for business communication. **Another** reason why I want to learn English is so that I can travel to English-speaking countries. The United States, England, Australia and many other countries all use English as their primary language. **Finally**, I want to learn English because I plan to move to the U.S. in the future. I will become a manager for my company soon. **For all these** reasons, I am very excited about learning English.



# Learn more

- There are other useful sentence connectors. You can learn more about them.
- Visit the following web page and complete the exercise.
- After completing the exercise you can check you correct answers

Click here:

<http://www.smccd.net/accounts/sevas/esl/gramcheck/9-10.html>



# Other useful words

Click here to access the web page again and learn more useful words

[http://www2.actden.com/writ\\_den/tips/paragrap/](http://www2.actden.com/writ_den/tips/paragrap/)

PARAGRAPHS

*Parts of a Paragraph*

- Topic Sentence
- Supporting Details
- Closing Sentence

*How to Write a Paragraph*

- Prewriting Paragraphs
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- Editing Paragraphs
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*Kinds of Paragraphs*

• <u>Definition</u>	• <u>Sequence</u>
• <u>Classification</u>	• <u>Choice</u>
• <u>Description</u>	• <u>Explanation</u>
• <u>Compare and Contrast</u>	• <u>Evaluation</u>

Useful words



# Types of paragraphs

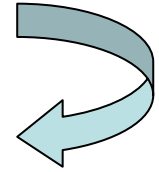
- **Classification paragraph** (grouping things or ideas)
- **Description paragraph** (describing people, places, things - what they are like)
- **Explanation/evaluation** (how or why something happens, making judgements)
- **Compare/contrast** (similarities or differences between something)
- **Sequence** (e.g. describing a process)





# Start composing a paragraph

Select one of the topics and write a paragraph:



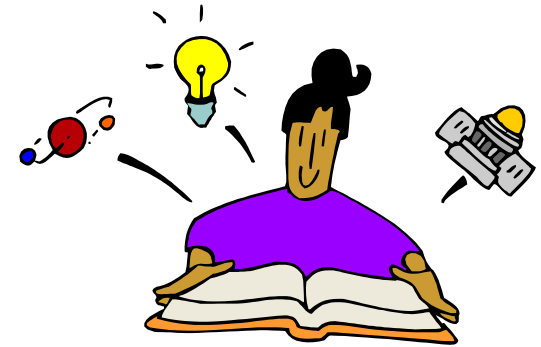
- Classification paragraph (“Vehicles”)
- Explanation/evaluation paragraph (“Matching colours”)
- Compare/contrast paragraph (“Cameras: digital vs. classic”)
- Sequence paragraph (“How to send an SMS message”)
- Description paragraph (“Fonts”)



# How to start

Follow this procedure:

- Think of the topic sentence
- What are the supporting sentences?  
Write them down.
- Think of the closing sentence.
- Think of the connecting words which  
will link sentences into a nice whole.
- Write the paragraph (50-80 words)



# Submit your work

- Before submitting your work check your spelling.
- Count the number of words.
- Do not forget to add your name.
- Send the paragraph to your tutor by e-mail.

**Congratulate yourself!**

