

Mastering Paragraphs with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To understand the purpose of paragraphs and how to use them to organise writing effectively in Year 5.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge about paragraph structure. Flip the card to check if your answer matches the definition or tip provided by Pip.

What is the main purpose of a paragraph?

A paragraph is a group of sentences that focus on one single idea or topic, helping to organise writing clearly.

What is a 'Topic Sentence'?

It is usually the first sentence in a paragraph that tells the reader what the rest of the paragraph will be about.

When should you start a new paragraph?

You start a new paragraph when you change the time, the place, the character, or the topic being discussed.

How can you show a new paragraph has started on a page?

You can use an indentation (a small space at the start of the first line) or leave a blank line between blocks of text.

What does 'cohesion' mean in a paragraph?

Cohesion means that the sentences flow smoothly together, often using conjunctions and fronted adverbials to link ideas.

What is a 'chronological' paragraph structure?

This is when events are written in the order that they happened, often using time conjunctions like 'afterwards' or 'meanwhile'.

How do paragraphs help the reader?

They break up large chunks of text, making the writing look less daunting and much easier to follow.

If you are writing a story about Pip the Bookworm and he moves from the library to the garden, what should you do?

You should start a new paragraph to signal the change in setting.

True or False: A paragraph must have at least five sentences.

False. A paragraph can be as short as one sentence, though it is usually longer.

What are 'linking words' or 'cohesive devices'?

Words or phrases that connect sentences, such as 'furthermore', 'however', 'in addition', or 'consequently'.