

Mastering Paragraphs: Writing with Precision

Learning objective: To understand the structure, purpose, and cohesive devices used to create effective paragraphs in Year 5 writing.

Use these flashcards to revise the technical components of paragraphing. Test yourself by defining the term or explaining the rule, then check the answer on the right.

What is the primary purpose of a paragraph?

A paragraph is a group of sentences that focus on a single idea or theme, helping to organise writing clearly for the reader.

Define a 'Topic Sentence'.

The opening sentence of a paragraph that introduces the main point or theme of that section.

Explain 'Cohesion'.

The way in which sentences and paragraphs flow logically together to create a unified and connected piece of writing.

What is the role of a 'Paragraph Break'?

It acts as a visual signal to the reader that the writer is shifting to a new time, place, person, or idea.

Name three 'Cohesive Devices' used to link ideas.

Conjunctions (and, but, so), adverbials (meanwhile, furthermore), and pronouns (he, she, it, they).

Why use 'Fronted Adverbials' at the start of paragraphs?

They help to establish the setting, time, or manner immediately, guiding the reader into the new focus.

Justify why a writer might start a new paragraph for a change in speaker in dialogue.

It prevents confusion and clarifies exactly who is speaking, following the standard convention of written dialogue.

Compare and contrast 'Chronological' and 'Thematic' paragraphing.

Chronological order organises paragraphs by time sequence, whereas thematic order organises them by specific topics or categories.

Explain why 'Syntactic Variety' is important within a paragraph.

Using a mixture of sentence lengths and structures keeps the reader engaged and prevents the writing from sounding repetitive.

What is 'Elaboration' in the context of a paragraph?

Adding supporting details, evidence, or descriptions to a topic sentence to provide a deeper understanding for the reader.

How do 'Transition Words' act as bridges?

They connect one paragraph to the next (e.g., 'In addition', 'Consequently', 'However') to ensure the argument or narrative flows smoothly.

What might happen if a piece of writing has no paragraph breaks?

The reader would find it difficult to distinguish between different ideas, and the text would appear overwhelming and unorganised.