

Mastering the Paragraph: The Building Blocks of Storytelling

Build your ideas, block by block: Paragraphs make your writing clear!

- A paragraph is a group of sentences that focus on one single theme, idea, or event. When your topic changes, it is time to start a new paragraph.
- Use the TIED method to build a paragraph: Topic sentence (the main point), Information (evidence or detail), Explanation (why it matters), and Development (linking to the next idea).
- Paragraphs create cohesion in your writing. Use transition words like 'meanwhile', 'consequently', or 'furthermore' to move the reader smoothly between your ideas.
- Chronological paragraphs help a reader follow a timeline. Start with the 'before', describe the 'during', and conclude with the 'after' of an event.
- Formatting matters! Always show a new paragraph by indenting the first line or leaving an empty line between blocks of text to give your reader's eyes a rest.

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'paragraph' comes from the Ancient Greek 'paragraphos', which literally means 'to write beside'. In the past, scribes used a small symbol called a pilcrow (¶) in the margins to show where a new idea began instead of starting a new line!

Key vocabulary: Cohesion · Transition · Chronological · Thematic · Structure · Conjunctions · Indentation · Topic sentence