

Writing in Paragraphs Warm-Up



What is a Paragraph?

A **paragraph** is a **group of sentences** within a piece of writing which is written about the **same idea** or topic.

George the Giant Tortoise



George was a giant tortoise. He belonged to a lovely owner called Oliver, who looked after him very well, although before that he had belonged to Oliver's Grandpa Jack for many years. He was quite a rare type of tortoise and that made him very special.

Some people said George was spoilt but he didn't ask for much really. All he liked to eat was grass and hay, with a few dandelions now and then, or the occasional lettuce. He did have his own shed, that Grandpa Jack had made when he was alive, which even had its own heating! Most of the time, George lived in his shed but he loved to wander lazily around the garden sometimes when Oliver was playing on the lawn.

George thought that Oliver was the best owner any tortoise could wish for. Well, maybe just first in a best-tortoise-owner competition, as Grandpa Jack had been an extremely kind, caring owner too. In fact, George was very keen to show how grateful he was to his owner and to prove that he was the best pet that Oliver could wish for.

As summer approached, the perfect opportunity came for George: the annual village fair would be holding the 'Perfect Pet Competition'. He was delighted. He would show everyone what a great pet he was and Oliver would be so proud. However when Oliver read the leaflet about, George was devastated. 'Open to dogs, cats, rabbits and hamsters. No tortoises allowed'.

'Just funny creatures?' thought George. 'How unfair!' So he decided he wasn't going to let those rules stop him. With the village fair only a week away, the giant tortoise began to dig a hole behind his shed. Slowly, the hole became bigger and closer to the fence at the back of the garden. Eventually, the hole became a tunnel but each night, George would return to his shed before anyone noticed he was gone.

First Paragraph

Second Paragraph

Third Paragraph

Fourth Paragraph

Fifth Paragraph

Paragraphs are often separated by **missing a line** between them.

What is a Paragraph?

Paragraphs are used to show when a writer has changed time, place or argument. When they do this, they will start a new paragraph.

All about...

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs are a largely nocturnal species, as they are unlikely to come out during the day. In the daytime, they spend a considerable amount of time sleeping in rocks, grounds, or under bushes.



Fascinating Facts

The hedgehog got its name because it roots through hedges searching for food (hedge), while grunting like a pig (hog); this is why it's called a hedgehog!

They have about 5,000 spines. Each spine lasts about a year before it drops out and a replacement grows.

Where Do They Live?

Hedgehogs can be found in almost all areas of the UK, except some of the Scottish islands. They tend to be scarce in wetland areas, pine forests and the highlands, where food and nesting sites are harder to find. Hedgehogs prefer moist habitats and live either on the ground or under the ground. They make habitats in farmlands, gardens, or even in parks. They live in nests under hedges or where ground-dwelling insects and other invertebrates are in large quantity.

Favourite Foods

The hedgehog has a reputation as being the 'gardener's friend' as it loves eating so many 'pests'. Some of their favourite foods are small creatures such as insects, worms, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs and snakes.

Staying Safe

Hedgehogs have sharp spines on their back, and when they are scared they curl up into a ball. Hedgehogs often roll up into a tight ball to protect themselves. As they feel threatened, they make their muscles active, which causes their spines to straighten. It is the only mammal native to Britain that has spines.

Introduction

Facts

First Paragraph

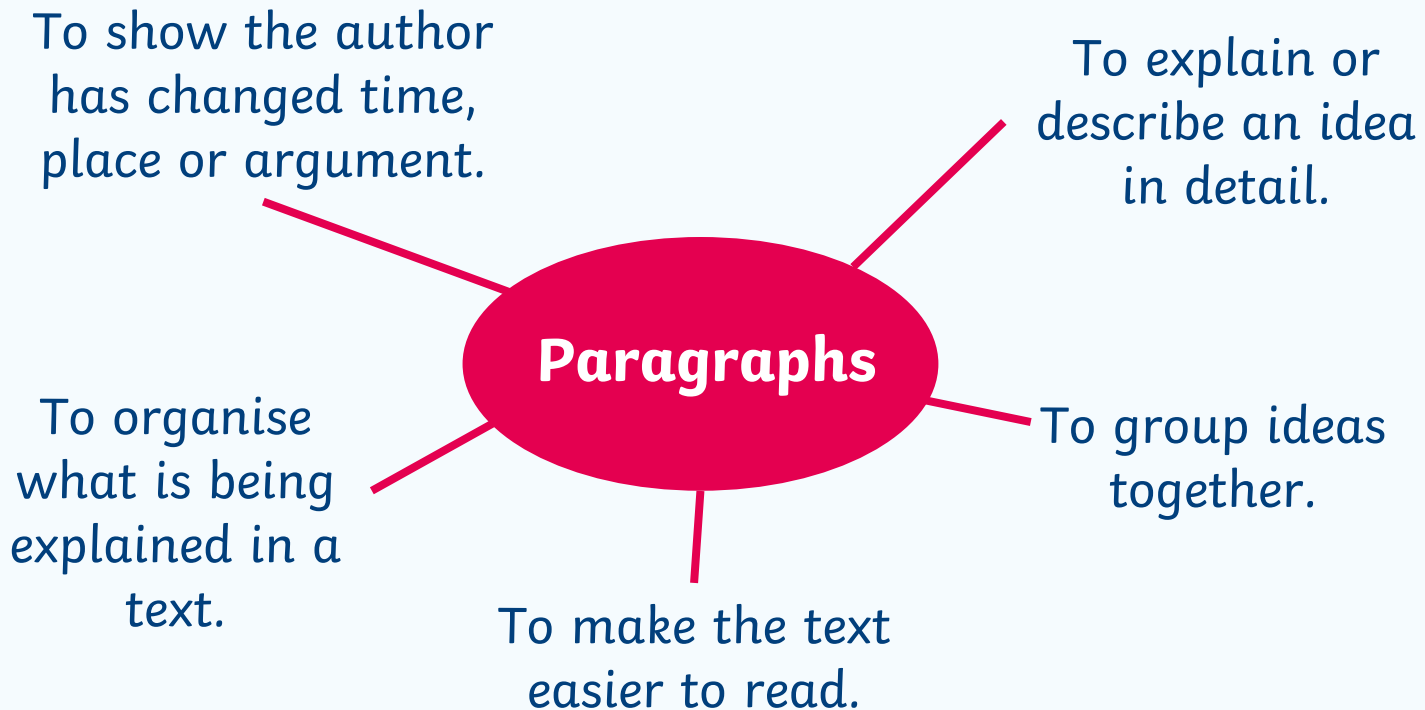
Second Paragraph

Third Paragraph

In a **non-fiction** text, we usually see a subheading before each paragraph, telling us what it will be about.

Why Do We Use Paragraphs?

Why do you think we use paragraphs in a piece of writing?
Mind map your ideas as a group.



Sorting Ideas in Topics

Can you read the sentences below and group them into sentences which talk about the same idea or topic?

Castles are a type of home that were built to protect the people inside.

People who lived in castles included royalty, noble people and soldiers.

You can still visit many castles today. Why not take a tour?

Everything about a castle was made that way to keep the people inside safe.

Famous castles include Windsor Castle, Dover Castle and Kenilworth Castle.

Castles could be very crowded places to live because there were a lot of people inside.

Sorting Ideas in Topics

Can you read the sentences below and group them into sentences which talk about the same idea or topic?

These two sentences are about castles as protection.

Castles are a type of home that were built to protect the people inside.

Everything about a castle was made that way to keep the people inside safe.

These two sentences are about the people who lived in castles.

Castles could be very crowded places to live because there were a lot of people inside.

People who lived in castles included royalty, noble people and soldiers.

These two sentences are about castles you can visit.

Famous castles you can visit include Windsor Castle, Dover Castle and Kenilworth Castle.

You can still visit many castles today.
Why not take a tour?

Using Paragraphs

The following text does not have paragraphs to sort the ideas. Can you identify where the topic changes?

Frogs are amphibians, which mean that they can live both on land and in the water. They are cold-blooded which means that their bodies are the same temperature as the air. When they get cold, they need to lie in the sun to warm up and when they get too warm, they need to go into the water or find a shady place to cool down. Frogs are found all over the world. They are found in every climate and on all continents except Antarctica. They are often found near any source of fresh water but they prefer water which does not move very quickly. Smaller frogs eat flies and insects, especially crickets. Larger frogs can eat mice! Frogs do not need to drink because they absorb water through their skin.

How many paragraphs could we split this piece of text into?



Using Paragraphs

Were you able to identify where the topic changes?
Let's organise this text into paragraphs.

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Subheadings in Non-Fiction Texts

As this is a non-fiction text, can you think of a good subheading to tell the reader what each paragraph is about?

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What are frogs?

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Where are frogs found?

Frogs are found all over the world. They are found in every climate and on all continents except Antarctica. They are often found near any source of fresh water but they prefer water which does not move very quickly.

What do frogs eat?

Smaller frogs eat flies and insects, especially crickets. Larger frogs can eat mice! Frogs do not need to drink because they absorb water through their skin.

It's Your Turn...

Here is a piece of text about different rivers of the world. Can you organise the text into paragraphs?

The Nile is longest river in the world. It is 4132 miles (6650 km) long – that's nearly seven times the distance from John o' Groats at the top of Scotland to Land's End at the bottom of England! When most people think of The Nile they think of Egypt, but surprisingly, only 20% of the river is in Egypt, it also flows through countries including Uganda and Ethiopia before ending at the Mediterranean Sea. The Rhine flows through Germany and is 766 miles (1233km) long. It also travels through another five countries before reaching the North Sea in the Netherlands. Its source is a small stream coming from a glacier in the Swiss Alps (the mountains in Switzerland). The Danube is the second largest river in Europe. It is 1785 miles (2680 km) long and its source is in the Black Forest Mountains in Germany flowing to The Black Sea. This river flows through, or along the border of many different countries including Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania to name a few. It also flows through the capital cities of Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna and Bratislava.



How Did You Do?

With this piece of text, each different topic was a different river so it is simple to separate the text into paragraphs which only focus on one river each, like this:

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