

Lesson 1  
Day 1

# What is a Paragraph

A paragraph is a collection of sentences that are all related to one **main topic**. The **main topic** is basically what the paragraph is about. A main topic is not necessarily a complete sentence, but it is often simply one word or a phrase.

The first sentence of a paragraph is slightly indented (to the right) in relation to the rest of the paragraph. It is possible to write a very short story by using a single paragraph.

A paragraph usually has three parts: a **topic sentence (beginning sentence)**, **detail sentences**, and an **ending sentence**.

The **topic sentence** tells **generally** what the paragraph is about, but it does not provide specific detail about the paragraph. As the first sentence, its primary purpose is to get the attention of the reader.

The **detail sentences** form the **body** of the paragraph. All detail sentences should be related to the **topic sentence**.

The **ending sentence** restates the **topic sentence** (using different words) and can also summarize the information contained in the detail sentences.

A. Read the following paragraph and answer the questions below.

Hand tools are items that help us accomplish tasks. There are many kinds of hand tools. Most hand tools are made of metal because they must be sturdy in order to be used repeatedly without breaking. A hand tool is used on something else to accomplish a task. Without tools it would be impossible for us to have cars or many other things.

1. Is there one sentence that tells what the paragraph is about? Write yes or no.

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. Does the paragraph only talk about the main topic? Write yes or no.

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3. Write the topic sentence that tells the main topic of the paragraph.

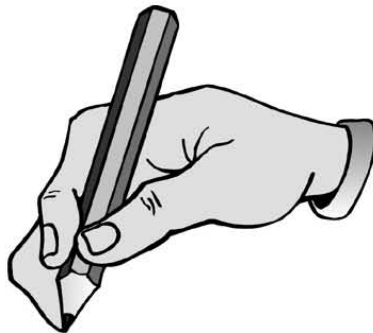
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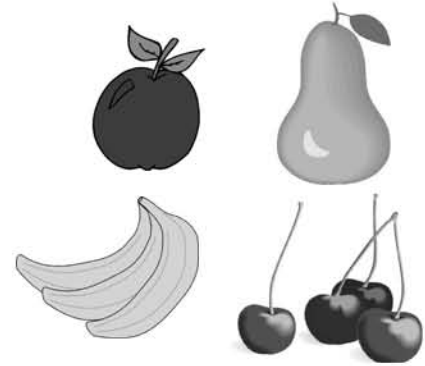
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What is a Paragraph

A. Read the following four sentences. What is the main topic of the four sentences?

- An apple is usually a red fruit that grows on a tree.
- A pear is usually a green fruit that grows on a tree.
- A banana is a yellow fruit that grows on a tree.
- A cherry is a red fruit that grows on a tree.



1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Write a topic sentence for the four sentences above.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. If we were to add the following sentence to the four sentences above, would it fit appropriately into this paragraph? Circle the correct answer.

- 1. Potatoes are a brown vegetable that are grown in the ground.

Yes or No

# What is a Paragraph

A. Write a paragraph using the four detail sentences and your answers from Day 2 Part B. Do not forget to include a topic sentence (beginning sentence). For now do **not** add an ending sentence.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline, repeated 15 times for writing a paragraph.

# What is a Paragraph

- A. Think of a **main topic** for a different paragraph and write it below. Be creative. You can write about **your favorite family tradition**, **your most embarrassing moment**, or you can **think of your own main topic**.

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\_\_\_\_\_

.....

\_\_\_\_\_

- B. Think of two **details** that are related to your **main topic**. A **detail** is **not** necessarily a complete sentence, but may be just a general idea that is used to develop **detail sentences** for your paragraph. For example, assume you have selected a main topic of **games** for a paragraph. **Board games** and **card games** can be **details** for the types of games you would like to talk about in your paragraph. Write your two **details** below.

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\_\_\_\_\_

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- C. Use the **main topic** and the two **details** from above to write a **topic sentence**.

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\_\_\_\_\_

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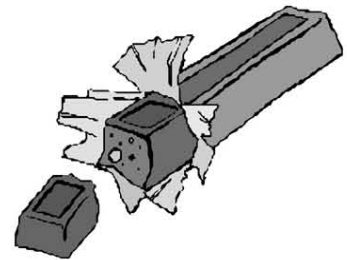
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## What is a Paragraph

- A. Which of the following **topic sentences** would be appropriate for the four sentences below? Circle the correct answer.

Chocolate candy bars are my favorite kind of snack. Chocolate candy can be very sweet. A piece of chocolate candy is nice to eat after dinner. Chocolate candy has a lot of calories, so do not eat too much of it.

1. Chocolate has value in treating disease.
2. Chocolate candy is tasty, but do not eat too much of it.
3. Chocolate candy is great food for a meal.
4. Chocolate candy is a great choice for breakfast.



- B. Which of the following **detail sentences** do **not** belong in this group for the following topic sentence? Write an **X** next to the correct answer.

**Topic sentence:** There are many types of food that make a meal.

1. \_\_\_ Fruits are a good choice for dessert.
2. \_\_\_ Meats are often served as the main part of a meal.
3. \_\_\_ Vegetables often make a good side dish for a meal.
4. \_\_\_ We like to play outside after lunch.