

Paragraph Writing

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Topic sentence: Topic sentence tells the main idea of the paragraph. It is often but not always the first sentence in a paragraph.

Supporting Details: Supporting details are statements, facts, and descriptions that support the main idea of a passage.

Rubric for Paragraph Writing

1. Topic Sentence
2. Supporting Details
3. Transition Words (Conjunctions)
4. Capitalization and Punctuation
5. Grammar and Spellings

A paragraph on a theme or a subject is a short piece of meaningful composition. It avoids elaborate details of the subject. A paragraph is a complete unit in itself. It is not split up into different paras. In its brief, precise and to the point treatment of the subject, it has a shape, format and a style of its own.

A paragraph like an essay, shows your command of vocabulary, grammar and idiomatic expression. It also indicates your degree of knowledge of the theme or subject under discussion. You are supposed to have an adequate knowledge and information relevant to the subject. Your choice of vocabulary should be appropriate. You may have come across many more words in magazines, fiction, newspapers, commercials and advertisements. All this fund of vocabulary will surely make your paragraphs interesting as well as original.

i. My School

My school is a place of great charm for me. Although its building is pretty old, it seems to cast a spell on us. Some of the walls are massive and ceilings are very high. Even the cruel summer fails to make our classrooms hot and humid. The location of my school is just by the side of the historic fort. The high walls of the fort, scarred with signs of wind and weather, look wonderful. They have a mystery of their own. We understand our history lesson very well because of the nearness to the famous fort. The teaching staff at my school is kind and devoted. A large playground with a row of evergreen tall trees faces the school building. What is more, it is away from all the hustle and bustle of the main road. I am glad that my school is far ahead of others in good results, sports, debates, library and scouting.

ii. Girl Guides

Girl Guides is a British organisation of girls. It was founded by Baden Powell and his sister Lady Agnes in 1910. The main objective of this movement is to make teenage girls conscious of their responsibilities. A member, a girl guide, is given a variety of programmes that shape her character. She learns, in association with other girl guides, how to keep herself clean and healthy. She is instructed how to build her moral and social character. She learns the basic facts about courtesy and etiquette. Furthermore, a girl guide is taught how to develop home making abilities. She learns household skills like cooking, knitting, stitching, planning and maintenance.

iii. A Visit to a Museum

The Lahore Museum is an important place where works of art and other objects of historical value are kept and displayed. It is an old imposing building with a high ceiling. The incharge of the museum is called the Curator. Our well-informed teacher took us to different sections of the beautiful museum. There were neatly arranged glass-cases which displayed ancient swords, daggers, garments, ornaments, coins, bows and arrows. The items on display had tags with brief descriptions. Paintings, pictures and clay models were exhibiting ancient craftsmanship. The huge statue of Queen Victoria was laid in one room of the museum. There were old manuscripts of the Holy Quran in another room. Full-size doors and frames with primitive fittings were specimens of rare woodwork craftsmanship. The impressive display in the museum gave us a wealth of information and insight into our past. It was a rewarding visit indeed.

iv. A River in Flood

Last summer, I was in my village, about twenty miles south of Jhang. For over a week, the wet spell had been a delightful experience. The rain was driven in sharp bursts by the rushing wind. One morning, in the early hours there went up a cry “water! water!”. The Chenab was in flood. There was water in our big courtyard. The low-lying part of the village was under three feet of water. Panic gripped the whole village. There were bushels on almost every head. Most of the folks started moving through the flooded fields towards the nearby high mound. It was a scene of great misery. From the corner of the high mound, I had the first glimpse of the river in flood. The entire area upto the far-off road bridge and even beyond was just one sheet of muddy water. Logs were seen floating fast. The trees all around, with half of their trunks in water, stood firm like unfolded umbrellas. Far below, we saw the floating horses and cows. The water all around and the floating objects in it filled our heart with dread.

v. A Pleasant Dream

Last night, I went to sleep a little early than my habitual time. I was exhausted so I fell slumbering immediately. In no time, I was in the land of dreams. I dreamt that I have been selected for a scuba diving adventure with navy personnel. It was so exciting that I could feel butterflies in my stomach. Next, I found myself in the designated area where all the preparations took place. I was given my body suit along with a mask, an oxygen tank and flippers. We all went to the boat. I was one of the trainees with navy officers. They were pleasant but firm. The instructions were to be followed promptly. The boat took us to the middle of the ocean where the water was on a deeper side. In reality, I did not know how to swim well, but in my dream, I could swim like a fish. On a count of three, we all dived in. To my surprise, I could see the underwater world really close. There were beautiful fish, corals and other sea creatures. I was swimming between them effortlessly. The sun could be seen through the water, shining brightly in the sky. The leading officer soon instructed me to come out. I followed the lead and got back to the boat. The head personnel was happy to see my stamina underwater. When he was about to shake hands with me, the alarm rang and I woke up for my morning prayers. The feeling of freshness was so real that I could experience it even after waking up. It was a pleasant dream that made my day.

vi. How to Keep Our Town Clean?

Cleanliness is next to godliness. We must give a serious thought to this golden truth. Neat and clean environment has a cheerful effect. It is a sure sign of civilization. Knowledge

is a great blessing of Allah. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to receive education. As school going boys and girls, it is our responsibility to keep our town clean. We ought to develop civic sense. We should not throw fruit and vegetable peels all over the street. A banana or melon peel thrown carelessly on the road may cause a fracture or even death. Plastic, polythene and wooden items should not be thrown into manholes. A choked gutter spreads filth and stench all over the street. Life becomes miserable. Spitting is another problem as it causes disease and insanitation. We can politely prevent one another from spitting on floors. We should not throw hard things or stones into toilets. We should not be shy of taking a broom and sweeping the littered portion of the street in front of our door. We should take care of trees, plants and flower-beds in parks. If we happen to pass by an unattended running water tap, we should stop and close it. As citizens, we should be vigilant and should report to the municipality if its staff neglects its duty. We can also add to cleanliness if we sprinkle water on our portion of the road. Dust and pollution can be effectively controlled if everyone lends a helping hand. Allah loves people who practise purity and cleanliness.

vii. An Industrial Exhibition

An industrial exhibition was arranged in Islamabad in March last year. The intention of the organisers was to exhibit industrial products at one place. The trading community and the general public showed keen interest in the products. Accompanied by my elder brother and sisters, I went around the elegant and brightly lit stalls. Exhibits included textiles and garments, electrical goods, household items, handicrafts, glass wares, furniture, sewing machines and stainless steel. The Pakistan Railways and WAPDA had put up informatory stalls. Heavy industrial goods, rollers, water pumps, tube-well equipment, motors, fertilizers and machinery were also on display. Prices of consumer goods were quite reasonable. Manufacturers were selling their products at reduced rates. Besides, there were food and entertainment stalls which attracted the cheerful crowd.

viii. My Neighbour

Mr. Ashraf Minhas is my next door neighbour. He is a handsome, middle aged scholar with a vigorous zest for life. He is a real gentleman with a lot of goodwill. You could not wish to meet a better natured and hospitable man. He likes gardening. His garden is full of flowers in spring. He invites his neighbours and entertains them warmly. He delights everybody with fond details of lovely flowers and their blooming patterns. Mr. Minhas is an optimist by nature, that is why he never worries himself over trifles. He has a remarkable

sense of humour, which helps him in getting along well with his neighbours. He has a son and a daughter. They are known for their fine tastes and good manners.

ix. Kitchen Gardening, A Hobby

People have different types of hobbies that they like to pursue in their leisure time. A healthy hobby keeps a person busy in a productive way. Also, it gives them pleasure and keeps them mentally healthy too. Some of the hobbies include sewing, trekking, photography, painting, etc. My hobby is kitchen gardening. It keeps me in harmony with nature, plants, and other flora. I enjoy cultivating such fruits, vegetables, and herbs in my kitchen garden which I need everyday. Kitchen gardening is not just gardening, it cultivates a lot of good habits in me such as eating healthy home grown fruits and vegetables, It also develops a great deal of patience in me, watching my plants every day, caring them for a long period, watering and pruning them. Kitchen gardening is a healthy hobby which keeps me active and give a sense of accomplishment when my family enjoy fresh organic vegetables, fruits and herbs.

x. Pakistani Women

Women in Pakistan have begun to take an active part in different spheres of life. Job opportunities for them in the past were few. By and large, women worked as lady doctors, nurses, health visitors and teachers during the first ten years of Pakistan. But spheres for women now are greater than ever before. They seem well on the way to become even more active in the near future. They compete successfully in the Central Superior Services examinations. They are holding responsible positions in administration, customs, income tax, railways, foreign services, police and postal departments. Some of them are in the assemblies as MNAs. Quite a number of educated women are in banks and businesses. Pakistan had its first-ever woman Prime Minister in 1988 - 90 and again in 1994 - 1996. The women of Pakistan are now more conscious of their social and political status in the twenty-first century

xi. Computers

Computers are a vital part of our daily lives. Let's look at how computers are used in numerous fields and why they are so essential. As a result of the computer's increasing importance and necessity in modern life, performing numerous tasks and activities has gotten simpler for us. Computers can be used for a variety of tasks, such as swiftly and

precisely solving mathematical equations, handling and processing data, storing information, and researching virtually any subject online. This remarkable invention was created in the second half of the twelfth century, and now it is essential to life. Calculators were invented in 1642 to make simple arithmetic operations like addition and subtraction easier. With every good, there comes evil. People misuse computers and create trouble for other people and organisations. Such as; it is easy to invade someone's personal space. Known people are easily distraught as their videos or information go viral on the internet. Without any investigation, people start spreading information which has a negative impact on that particular person's life. With great power comes great responsibility. As much as computers liberate everyone and give access to the entire world, one has to be responsible. Students can easily use computers to conduct research, make an assignment, and take online classes and exams. Whereas, at offices, all of the data is stored in computers which saves paperwork and the environment's eco-friendly. There is no doubt that computers are essential but we should be careful and use them to make our life better and easier not to overrun someone's privacy or spread rumours.

Exercises with Hints

Develop paragraphs from the following outlines:

1. A Fortune-teller

A footpath fortune - teller, books and cards in a basket and a pencil tucked on his ear ... a parrot in a cage. In fact, the parrot is the real fortuneteller. The fortune-teller is a big fraud, who cleverly manipulates simple people - village men and women, who are his clients. He poses to be a serious, knowledgeable man, pretends to know the movement of stars-astrologer. The illiterate people feel satisfied when he tells them that they will have a job, a wife, a son, a cart, a seven marla house, a twelve acre farm or a tractor.

2. A Picnic

The rainy season had set in All around it was lush green ... out for picnic at the Jallo Park It was a family affair ... we cooked meals out there ... a sprawling park ... trees and bushes all around ... lakes - fascinating Canal Bank drive ... flowering trees all along the canal ... unpolluted air ... played badminton ... ran around ... inhaled fresh air... had sizzling snacks with tea in the afternoon ... enjoyed the return drive along the clean and green Canal Bank.

3. A Street Quarrel

Main street Gowalmandi ... I was having my evening meal ... heard a terrible noise out in the street ... got up and looked out ... about fifty persons in front of a big shop ... four or five persons ran out of the shop ... exchanged violent blows The cause was an old enmity ... a sad spectacle ...

4. A Visit to a Historical Place

The Shalimar Garden ... main entrance closed to traffic ... entry tickets First terrace ... vast and lush green Brief description of the garden at the entry door ... small brick paths with a long row of fountains in the middle ... ornamental lights in flower beds. Old mango trees on both sides The massive boundary wall ... the royal enclosure and the marble throne on the second terrace A big pool of water with sidewalks and a middle path connecting the two royal enclosures A rare specimen of the Mughal Architecture ... the third terrace ... bushes and trees all around

5. A Visit to a Zoo

Visited the Lahore Zoo huge models of an elephant and three other animals mounted at the main entry on Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam. A beautiful waterfall at the side of animals' cage ... renovated booking office with rock walls. Monkey cages with swings ... visitors feeding them grams The elephant ride The monster like hippopotamus in a huge pond ... it raised its large head and muzzled ... children ran helter-skelter The fearful rhinoceros with two upright horns above the nose The lion and the lioness The king of the zoo as well Big and strong cages Peacocks ... graceful zebra with black and white stripes. Parrots, ducks and flamingos ... wonderful giraffe with a long neck.

6. Allama Iqbal

An eminent philosopher and poet ... born in 1877 at ... school and early college education at Murray College ... Sayyed Mir Hassan ... inspiring teacher of Persian and Urdu ... Master's degree from Government College Lahore For higher studies to England and Germany On return gave new direction to the Muslim thought ... wrote poems in the praise of the Muslim culture Re-awakening of the Muslims ... idea of a separate Muslim state in the sub-continent. Books like *Bang-e-Dra*, *Bal-e-Jibril*, *Asrar-e-Khudi*, *Pyam-e-Mashriq* ... inspired the Muslims' imagination The nation pays glorious tribute to him every year ... buried beside the Badshahi Masjid in Lahore.

7. The Teacher I Like the Best

It is but natural to have a strong liking for somebody ... respect and reverence for all teachers ... but Mr. Mazhar-ul-Haq ... the teacher I like the best ... charming personality ... elegantly dressed ... M.A. B.Ed ... punctual and diligent ... teaches English ... confidence and correct pronunciation ... well-read ... patriot ... public spirited ... maintains perfect discipline during lessons ... encourages students to ask questions ... does not lose temper ... praises hard working students ... makes lessons interesting with anecdotes ... broad-minded ... and dignified ... a beloved teacher indeed.

8. A House on Fire

It was a perfectly peaceful night ... winter had set in ... occasional bark of a street dog Abrupt commotion out in the street ... echoing steps ... cries of fire, fire. I leapt out ... about a hundred steps ahead, the upper storey of a house was on fire. Some women wailing outside ... billows of smoke ... dense and choking ... pails of water ... neighbours eager to lend a helping hand ... inmates safely brought down Fire brigade arrived ... ladder and waterhose ... leaping flames subsided ... curtains, furniture, carpets, wooden almirahs completely burnt ... loss of property but no loss of life.