Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf
Cellule E-learning

Anglais–Niveau 3

Lesson 7
Para raph in Academic Writing

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Lettres et Langues	*-Langues Etrangère*	*Licence3*	*Français.*
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Lesson's Objectives

- At the end of this lesson, students will learn what a paragraph is, how it is structured, and what the types of sentences are.

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Paragraph in Academic Writing

1. What is a Paragraph?

- Read carefully:

This lesson is not about texts. This lesson is about writing paragraphs; remember the previous lesson about text types. A text is made up of paragraphs which, in turn, are made up of three types of sentences, topic sentence, supporting sentences and concluding sentence. To write a paragraph you have to be careful about its structure and its ideas.

Think about these questions:

- ✓ Maybe you understood what the paragraph is about, but you certainly felt some load in it. Why?

- ✓ Aren't you annoyed with the first sentence?

- ✓ Don't you think that the third sentence is too long?

- ✓ Don't you feel that the last sentence is misleading?

- Consider this paragraph again:

You might remember the previous lesson about text types. This lesson is not about texts; rather, it is about paragraphs. Two or more paragraphs make a text. What makes a paragraph is a set of sentences. These sentences are categorized into three types: topic sentence, supporting sentences and concluding sentence. A paragraph, then, is a piece of writing made up of three types of sentences[i].

Note: You probably understand this paragraph more easily than the first one, because both its ideas and its sentences are well organized.

Now, you know very well the benefit of writing a well-structured paragraph. It is to make your readers understand quite easily what you want to express. You can now answer the question put at the beginning of this section. (What is a paragraph?)

2. Paragraph Structure:

You know that a paragraph is made up of three types of sentences: topic sentence,

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supporting sentences and concluding sentence. Consider the following table:

Type of Sentence	Definition	Illustration
Topic sentence	Is the first sentence in the paragraph which contains the topic and the controlling idea of a paragraph[ii].	e.g.: Learning the English language provides you with ample benefits. The topic is 'Learning the English language'. It means what the whole paragraph is about. The controlling idea is 'ample benefits'. i.e. what the paragraph is going to talk about in particular.
Supporting sentences	Are the sentences that follow the topic sentence. They provide more details to support the topic sentence[iii].	e.g.: It is like an international passport that allows you to communicate with anyone from anywhere. You can also use it to write and publish your articles in international journals. In addition to that, the English language provides you with many job opportunities; especially, in online websites.
Closing/Concluding sentence	Is the last sentence in a paragraph by which you remind your readers about the main topic using different words[iv].	e.g.: In brief, it is necessary to learn the English language nowadays.

⬇ It's time to train yourself. You may notice that a combination of the examples above makes a paragraph. Follow the same structure and make a paragraph about one of these topics (Traveling, Vegetarian, Playing Football, Drinking Coffee).

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[i]See, How To Write A Paragraph, Prof. Jeffery Auerbach, Department of History, Nov. 2014. Retrieved from www.csun.edu

[ii]See, The Topic Sentence on www.rochester-institute-of-technology.edu

[iii]See, How to Write a Perfect Paragraph. Retrieved from www.csun.edu

[iv]Ibid.

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