

frustration. They also take drugs when they do not get their expected love and affection from their parents. The unhappy relationship between the parents is another reason why their children become drug-addicts. Of course, some people take drugs only to satisfy their perverted curiosities. However, the society as a whole is responsible for this fatal degeneration of the young.

- a) How many topic sentences does this paragraph have? What is the function of each of these topic sentences?
- b) Which sentence in this paragraph tells you that it is a cause-and-effect paragraph?
- c) What is the effect in this paragraph? Which sentence is it stated in?
- d) What purpose does the last sentence serve? Does it refer back to the topic sentences?
- e) How many causes of the effect have there been given in the paragraph?
- f) What are the sentence linkers used in this paragraph?

2. Develop each of the following effects and their causes into a paragraph:-

- a) Road accidents take place generally for three reasons: mechanical failures, adverse environmental conditions and reckless driving.
- b) Dropping out of schools: poverty; aversion to studies; fear of punishment; lack of teachers' love and sympathy.
- c) People commit suicide for many reasons including (a) disappointment in love (b) failure in the examinations (c) unhappy married life and (d) overall frustration in life.

3. Write a cause-and-effect paragraph on each of the following effects:

- i) Flood in Bangladesh
- ii) Violence in the University Campus
- iii) Postponement of Examinations
- iv) Launch Accidents
- v) Low Literacy Rate in Bangladesh.

The Description Paragraph

This category of paragraph is developed by using the technique of description. This indicates that the function of the development section of a description paragraph is to describe a person, a place or an object. In other words, it gives a picture of anything in words. It gives relevant and significant details to make the description lively and vivid.

As usual, a description paragraph also contains a topic sentence, some developers and a terminator. The topic sentence in this case makes an overall comment on the subject to be described and its controlling idea is generally expressed in descriptive adjectives or adverbs. The developers present necessary details to support the comment and the terminator strengthens the comment by restating it.

Here are two model description paragraphs. Read them with close attention to see how they are organized and developed.

1. Rajshahi University Campus

The University of Rajshahi has a beautiful campus. Far from the din and noise of the city, it enjoys a calm and quiet natural atmosphere. It is quite a big campus with an area of about 750 acres. It is bordered by a road in the south and a railway in the north. The Administration Building of the university with a nice garden in front of it faces the main gate and is surrounded by many other buildings. The buildings are all connected with one another by a vast network of streets. The rows of different kinds of trees on each side of the streets contribute greatly to the beauty of the campus. It is further enhanced by the green fields,

beautiful gardens and the bougainvilleas with their red and purple bracts scattered here and there in the campus. At night the whole campus is lighted by innumerable electric bulbs and then it appears wonderful to the travelling viewers. In fact, this campus has a wonderful scenic beauty.

2. Adornment of a Girl

The girl who has won the Beauty Contest this year adorned herself most beautifully. She dressed herself in silks and satins. Both her skirt and blouse were splendid. She wore red shoes to match her dress. Besides, she made herself up with dazzling cosmetics. Every item of her cosmetics had a wonderful combination. Her magnificent blonde hair fell beneath her waist. She also wore brilliant ornaments. The bands round her wrists, the chain with the diamond locket round her neck and the rings hanging from her ears—everything was giving out a glittering ray of light. When she appeared on the stage before the onlookers, she held them spellbound with her amusing beauty and splendour.

As far as the above paragraphs are concerned, both of them have the same structure. Each contains an Introduction, a Development and a Conclusion. However, the first of them describes a place, while the second describes a person. The controlling idea in the former is expressed in an adjective, while that in the latter is expressed in an adverb. You have noticed that both the paragraphs describe static subjects which have nothing to do with the sequence of time. In fact, a description paragraph does generally describe things in their static conditions. In other words, it is a photographic representation of something.

MAIN POINTS

- i) A description paragraph follows the technique of description.
- ii) It gives a picture of anything in words.
- iii) It gives relevant and significant details to make the description vivid.
- iv) The controlling idea of a description paragraph is generally expressed in adjectives and adverbs.
- v) A description paragraph generally describes a static thing.

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

adornment – decoration

blonde – magnificent; of golden colour

bougainvillea – Climbing shrub with small flowers surrounded by red bracts

bract – leaf-like part of a plant situated below a flower

dazzling – glittering; much too brilliant

din – loud continuous noise

(to) enhance – increase

(to) make oneself up – apply cosmetics to the face.

Network – complex system of lines crossing one another

onlooker – person looking at something happening

overall – including everything

silks and satins – rich clothes

spellbound – held by a charm

static – at rest; not dynamic

vivid – clear and distinct

EXERCISES

1. Write a paragraph on each of the following subjects using the method of description:-

a) The village you live in

- b) Your best friend
- c) A Railway Station
- d) An Ordinary Tea Stall
- e) The Novel You Like Best

2. Develop each of the following topic sentences into a description paragraph:

- a) The Taz Mohal is one of the seven wonders of the world.
- b) It was a very bad unlucky day for me.

The Narration Paragraph

The narration paragraph (which can also be called Narrative Paragraph) is developed by using the technique of narration. This indicates that the purpose of a narrative paragraph is to present actions or events in series. In other words, it gives an orderly account of events forming a story. It presents a sequence of events in a chronological order.

As for the structure of a narration paragraph, it sometimes conforms to and sometimes deviates from the general rule. This kind of paragraph may or may not begin with the traditional topic sentence introducing the main theme of the narrative. When it does not have such a topic sentence, the beginning of the paragraph seems to merge into its body. If you look at the concluding sentence of a narration paragraph, you will see that instead of restating the first sentence it generally makes a finishing comment on the entire narrative.

Here are two different model narration paragraphs for the student to follow.

1. A clash in the University Campus

There was a violent clash in the university campus yesterday between two rival groups of students. It began at 10 o'clock when one group was processing and shouting slogans against the other group. Suddenly their opponents made a chase after them from behind. For a while, the procession was dispersed. But very soon they also gained strength to make a counter-attack. The campus then turned into a battle field. Although both the groups started their fight by flinging bricks and stones, they were found using deadly weapons later. One student was stabbed to death and many others were seriously injured. When