

**kimonos** – lounging robe; long, loose outer garment worn for comfort

**numerous** – great in number

**organisation** – systematic arrangement

**relax** – become free from nervous anxiety and tension

**siesta** – short afternoon sleep

**temperate** – free from extremes of heat and cold

## The List Paragraph

A list paragraph is one which is developed by applying the technique of listing. The developers in this kind of paragraph make a list of the things mentioned in the controlling idea of the topic sentence. Sometimes the developers are divided into two groups to make two different lists. In that case, a modulator is essential to come between them.

There is no hard and fast rule as to how many items are to be listed in a list paragraph. However, a medium sized paragraph generally contains three to six items on one list. Whatever way be the number of items, you should remember that your list paragraph should not resemble a shopping list like this.

### Qualities of a Good Actress

A good actress should possess the following qualities:

1. A handsome figure
2. Glamour
3. Good voice
4. Acting skill
5. Power of perception

In fact, this is not a paragraph, not a piece of composition. Although all the expected things are listed here, the way they are done is not appropriate. In order to avoid this shopping list appearance, you should put the things in sentence forms and they should also be joined together with the help of linkers and connectors. Read the following paragraph and see how the listing is done:

### Qualities of a Good Actress

A good actress should have at least five basic qualities. First of all, she should have an attractive figure. Secondly, she should have

**sufficient glamour to enchant her viewers. Thirdly, her voice also should be soft and pleasing to the audience. Fourthly, she should be able to perform her acting skilfully and realistically. And finally, she should possess the necessary power of perception to understand her roles correctly. If an actress happens to possess these qualities, it is expected that she will be successful in her career.**

This is how the list has become paragraphic now. According to the controlling idea contained in the topic sentence, the developers have made this list with the aid of some connectors. The connectors here are First of all, Secondly, Thirdly, Fourthly and finally.

You have noticed that this paragraph has no context modulator in it, because it has presented only one set of ideas. However, like all ideal paragraphs, it has a topic sentence at the beginning and a terminator at the end. The controlling idea in a list paragraph is generally expressed by a noun phrase with a countable plural noun modified by determiners and / or adjectives. Here are some examples:

three problems

four advantages

five major causes

these principles

some important characteristics

several reasons

The main conditions and so on

The connectors in a list paragraph include the following:

First / firstly

Second / Secondly

Third / thirdly and so on

another

still another

as well

moreover

lastly / finally and so on

## MAIN POINTS

- i) The list paragraph is developed by the technique of listing.
- ii) The context modulator may or may not be present in a list paragraph.
- iii) The act of listing is governed by the controlling idea.
- iv) The listing is done with the help of connectors.

## VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

**(to) apply** – ask for; make practical use of

**audience** – gathering of persons for hearing a speaker, singer, etc.

**career** – way of making a living; profession

**(to) enchant** – charm; delight

**figure** – human form; physical appearance

**glamour** – alluring beauty or charm, often with sex-appeal

**Paragraphic** - which is done according to the rules of paragraph writing.

**perception** – power of becoming aware of something through the senses.

**realistically** – faithfully conforming to what is real

**Viewers** – persons watching films, television programmes, etc.

## EXERCISES

1. Write a list paragraph on each of the following topics:

- a) Your favourite hobbies
- b) Essential qualities of a political leader
- c) Effects of cheating in the examination
- d) Causes of drug addiction
- e) Parts of a paragraph

2. Read the following paragraphs and say which one is developed by listing. Explain why you think so:

### Bamboo

(a) **Bamboo is a sturdy and adaptable plant, able to break through rocky soil. It sends up its first shoots in the springtime after a rain. It can grow as much as several feet in a night. There are about 1,200 varieties of this plant. It is used for a variety of things including food, construction materials, clothing, paper and shoes.**

### Bamboo

(b) **Bamboo is used for four main purposes. Firstly, it is used as a construction material in making fences and houses. Secondly, it is used in the paper mills to produce paper. Thirdly, it is used in some countries to make shoes. Fourthly, processed bamboo shoots are also used as a popular food in some countries. Bamboo is used mainly for these four things.**

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### The Example Paragraph

The example paragraph is that kind of paragraph in which examples are used to develop or support the main idea contained in the topic sentence. The topic sentence in this case does usually make a general statement which is then supported by specific examples through the developers. Like every other kind of paragraph, an example paragraph also is rounded off by a terminator. However, the context modulator is not generally required in an example paragraph.

It is important to note that the examples in an example paragraph may also have the appearance of a list. In fact, it is also a list paragraph in a different way. The difference is that in a genuine list paragraph the topic statement is more or less specific and the developers there make an exact list of the things suggested by its controlling idea. But in an example paragraph the list is generally flexible and follows a general statement. An examination of the two topic sentences below will show the difference between a list paragraph and an example paragraph. Here are the topic sentences:

- a) **There are three major reasons behind his failure.**
- b) **All synonyms in English do not always have the same emotional meaning.**

Obviously, the first sentence makes a very specific statement and if you develop this into a paragraph, you must make an exact list of the three reasons. So the list here will be directly guided by the controlling idea and the result will be a genuine list paragraph. On the contrary, the second sentence does not at all make a specific statement. It only makes a general observation on English synonyms. It does not say how many things are to be listed. The function of the developers here will simply be to prove this statement true by giving some examples. It is neither possible nor desired that you should