

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

make a comprehensive list of all those synonyms. The examples may give the impression of a list but they will actually form an example paragraph.

It is, therefore, clear that the difference between a list paragraph and an example paragraph is determined by their respective topic statements. It is also to be noted that the developers in an example paragraph are joined sometimes by different connectors.

**The controlling idea in an example paragraph may be expressed in such phrases as:**

wild animals

a great number of films

many Bengali words

numerous colloquial expressions

lots/a lot of troubles

innumerable difficulties

some Shakespearean plays

most of the Victorian novels

various activities

**and many others like these**

**The connectors in an example paragraph generally include:**

And

for example

another example

still another example

for instance

another instance

yet another instance

also

moreover

furthermore **and so on**

**N.B.** Sometimes the examples are joined without any connector.

Here is a model example paragraph to show you the technique of its development:

## Extracurricular Activities

**In addition to their academic programme, students should always take part in various extracurricular activities. For example, they should participate in different games and sports and take regular physical exercise to keep their body healthy. They should also associate themselves with various dramatic and debating societies and other cultural organizations to improve their faculty. Furthermore, they should participate in the reformative activities in their spare times for the improvement of their society. Along with his normal course of studies, an ideal student should do all these things simultaneously.**

You have certainly noticed that the topic sentence of this paragraph makes a general statement with a flexible controlling idea—various extracurricular activities. And then three specific examples of extracurricular activities are given to support that statement. Obviously, the example sentences are joined by some connectors. They are—For example, also and Furthermore. The last sentence is the terminator.

### MAIN POINTS

- i) The example paragraph is developed by examples.
- ii) The topic statement should be general but the examples very specific.
- iii) It is also a list paragraph but the way of listing is different.

### VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

**extracurricular** — outside the regular course of academic work or studies

**flexible** — adaptable; which can be easily changed to suit new conditions.