

general – not special or particular

impression – effect produced on the mind

respective – belonging to each of those in question

(to) round sth off – bring it to a satisfactory conclusion

simultaneously – happening or done at the same time.

specific – detailed and precise

EXERCISES

1. Develop each of the following topic sentences into an example paragraph:

- Some programmes of the Bangladesh Television are very good.
- In Asia some countries are remarkably rich.
- After the independence a number of films were made on the liberation war.

2. Say which technique of paragraph development has been used in the following paragraphs:

Dramatic Unities

a) The classical dramatists maintained three dramatic unities in their plays. Firstly, they maintained the unity of time which indicates that the time taken by the action of a play should not exceed 24 hours. Secondly, they observed the unity of place according to which the entire action should take place in one town. And thirdly, they followed the unity of action which suggests that there should be only one main plot in a play. All classical plays strictly adhered to this principle of unity.

Gold

b) Gold serves many important purposes. Because of its permanent lustrous beauty, it is used for jewelry, coins and ornamental purposes. In recent times, it is also used in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear gold plated head shields for protection outside the spaceship. In fact, gold has many different functions.

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The Comparison Paragraph

As the nomenclature suggests, this kind of paragraph follows the technique of comparison. In other words, the function of the developers in a comparison paragraph is to compare two subjects to show the similarities between them. Remember, there may be some obvious differences or dissimilarities between the subjects in question but the comparison paragraph has nothing to do with them. It will concern itself only with the common aspects or similarities. The question of the differences may simply be mentioned in the topic sentence/s (sometimes more than one sentence is required in a comparison paragraph to introduce the topic) but its main focus will be on the similarities.

Before you start writing a comparison paragraph you should first decide how many points of similarity you will make in it. Suppose, you have decided to make only three points. Then, you should decide how you will arrange your developers. There are, in fact, two different procedures for doing this. Either you can alternate one example of your first subject with one of the second or you can write down all your examples of the first subject one by one followed by all the examples of the second. The diagrams below will demonstrate the procedures more clearly. The two subjects of comparison are represented by X and Y respectively:

	TS		TS
	X1		X1
	Y1		X2
	X2		X3
1.	Y2	2.	Y1
	X3		Y2
	Y3		Y3
	CS		CS

These are the two possible organisational patterns of a comparison paragraph. In each of the diagrams, TS stands for Topic Sentence and CS means Concluding Sentence. Let us now write two paragraphs on the same topic using these diagrams.

Paragraph and Essay

1. Although the paragraph and the essay are different from each other, there are some structural similarities between them. Firstly, the paragraph has a topic sentence to introduce the main idea. Similarly, the essay has a topic paragraph or thesis statement to introduce the main idea. Secondly, in a paragraph the sentences in the middle serve the purpose of expanding or developing the main idea. In the same manner, the intermediate part of an essay supports the topic paragraph. Thirdly, every paragraph has a concluding sentence to draw the main idea to a satisfying end. The essay also has a similar concluding paragraph. The paragraph and the essay, therefore, share some common features in respect to their structures.

2. Although the paragraph and the essay are different from each other, there are some structural similarities between them. Firstly, the paragraph has a topic sentence to introduce the main idea. Secondly, it has a number of sentences in the middle to develop that main idea. And thirdly, there is a concluding sentence in it to bring the main idea to a close. In the same way, the essay also consists of a beginning, a middle and an end. It has a topic paragraph to highlight the main idea. Then the paragraphs in the middle expand that main idea. And it has also a concluding paragraph to give the essay a

satisfactory end. It is, therefore, obvious that the paragraph and the essay share some common features in respect to their structures.

You have certainly noticed that both the paragraphs above have an identical beginning and ending. But the developers in them have been arranged in different orders. The difference is shown in the diagrams above. In the second paragraph, however, there is a context modulator.

You should remember that apart from the connectors used in the list paragraph and the example paragraph, you will need some special linkers in a comparison paragraph. They include:

Similarly

in the same manner

in the same way

likewise

also

too and others

MAIN POINTS

- i) The comparison paragraph is developed by using the technique of comparison.
- ii) Its function is to compare two subjects.
- iii) The examples of the similarities between the subjects can be arranged in two different ways.

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

(to) **alternate** – arrange by turns; appear one after the other

(to) **concern oneself with** – be busy with; interest oneself in

demonstrate – show clearly by giving examples

diagram – drawing or design to explain something

identical – the same; exactly alike

intermediate – coming between in time, space, etc.

nomenclature – system of naming

procedure – order of doing things

EXERCISES

1. Read the following paragraph and answer the questions below it:-

Novel and Short Story

Despite the differences between them, the novel and the short story share some common characteristics. For example, the novel is a narrative in prose. Similarly, the short story is a narrative in prose. Secondly, in the novel there is an elaborate portrayal of characters. In the same manner, the short story also portrays characters, though on a smaller canvas. Thirdly, the novel in its course of action tells a story. Likewise, the short story also tells a story. Clearly, the novel and the short story are similar on certain points.

- What technique of paragraph development has been used here?
- How have the examples of similarities been arranged? Show it in a diagram.
- Underline the words/expressions that indicate similarity.

2. Write a comparison paragraph on each of the following topics:-

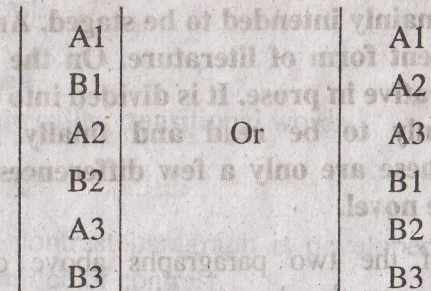
- Australia and the Great Britain
- Islam and Christianity
- Books out Newspapers
- Football and cricket
- The cow and the Horse

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The Contrast Paragraph

The Contrast Paragraph is also a kind of Comparison Paragraph in which two things are compared. However, there is also a difference between the two. While in the comparison paragraph the comparison is made to bring out the similarities, in the contrast paragraph the things are compared so that their differences are made clear. In other words, the function of a contrast paragraph is to contrast one subject with another. Remember, only the dissimilar aspects or characteristics of the subjects in question should be your target. If there is any similarity between them, students can simply mention it but they must concentrate on the differences.

The organizational pattern of a contrast paragraph is like that of the comparison paragraph. Here also two procedures can be used. How you will arrange your developers in this case is shown in the diagrams below. Suppose, your subjects are A & B. Then your order of arrangement will be like this:



That means, either you can alternate your examples of the first subject with those of the second (in this case the contrast may be shown in just one sentence or two consecutive sentences) or write all the examples of the first subject together to be followed by those of the second with a modulator in the middle of the sets.

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