

TYPES OF PARAGRAPHS.

There are four types of paragraphs: Descriptive ,Narrative ,Argumentative & Expository Paragraph types



Descriptive	To describe something or someone
Narrative	To tell stories or sequence of events
Expository	To explain something, give information or instructions
Persuasive	To convince the reader

DESCRIPTIVE

This type of paragraph:

- ▶ Describes something.
- ▶ Shows what a thing or a person is like.
- ▶ The words that we usually use are often the five senses of touch, smell, sight, sound, and taste.
- ▶ Descriptive paragraphs can be artistic and only the significant details should be given in a descriptive paragraph.

NARRATIVE

This type of paragraph:

- ▶ Always tells us a story.
- ▶ There is a sequence of action or there is a clear beginning, middle, and end to the paragraph.
- ▶ Most short stories and newspaper articles are examples of narrative paragraphs.

EXPOSITORY

This type of paragraph:

- ▶ Provides information, including facts, instructions, and definitions.
- ▶ It describes a process and guide the reader step by step through an idea.
- ▶ It requires research.
- ▶ Define terms, make comparisons, and show cause and effect.

PERSUASIVE

This type of paragraph:

- ▶ Share opinions and convince others to agree or take action.
- ▶ Tries to get the reader to accept a particular point of view or understand the writer's position.
- ▶ It is very useful when building an argument and is often used in order of importance.
- ▶ It requires research and collection of facts.

Narrative Paragraphs

A narrative paragraph tells a story of one specific event. They are used when people need to tell or talk about an event or series of events in time, usually in chronological order. The narrative means that it has events, that is set in the time, tells something, is used in novels and stories, the verbs generally are in perfect or imperfect.

“**Harry was in the house**, then he **heard** a noise, **he went to the basement**, and something **surprised** him”

Character – Harry

Place – in his house

Verb – in Past \implies Most of the narrative paragraphs are written in past tenses

Helpful tips

- *Usually organize events chronologically, moving from what happened first to what happened last.
- *Ordering your sentences and ideas chronologically is not hard.
- *However, it can be difficult to make your paragraph unified – in other words, to decide what to include and what to omit and to select the controlling idea for your paragraph.

Adverbial Expressions of Time and Sequence

- *It is important in narrative writing to show the reader the time relationships between sentences and ideas; it helps to achieve coherence.
- *The adverbial expressions of time and sequence help to tie the sentences together logically, thus clarifying the time sequence..

Adverb Clauses of Time

- *Are a more sophisticated technique for achieving coherence.
- *Some examples are:

transition words

Time Order Signals

Words	Phrases
Finally,	At last,
First (second, third, etc.),	At 12:00,
Later,	After a while,
Meanwhile,	After that,
Next,	Before beginning the lesson,
Now	In the morning,
Soon	The next day,

An outline of a narrative paragraph

The narrative paragraph must have:

- **A central idea** (what the story/event is about)
- **Characters** (who it is about)
- **A plot** (conflict, compilation, climax and resolution of the story)
- **Setting** (when and where the story happens)
- **Adequate description.**

Organizing a Narrative Paragraph

A good narrative paragraph normally requires three necessary components:

- **background information, the story/event (a summary), and the conclusion.**

1. Background information

The background information sets the scene for the audience. It includes the following pieces of information:

- **A topic sentence,**
- **What story/event is about,**
- **Who it is about,**
- **When it happens,**
- **Where it happens,**
- **Where is the source of the narration.**

Note: *the topic sentence of a narrative paragraph does not start the narration. It establishes a purpose. It does not tell only a story, but also the reader's view point. Therefore, writing a strong topic sentence is important.*

2. The Story / Event

The story or event happens at 3 different stages: the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story or event.

- ***The beginning of the story*** – the beginning tells what happens first in the story. **It can be the problem which makes the story or event happen.**
- ***The middle of the story*** – the middle tells the main events or important activities of the story/event.
- ***The end of the story*** – the end tells the final events, i.e. the result or what brings the end of the story/event.

3. The Conclusion

It is a concluding sentence. The writer can either

- restate the topic sentence,
- give a concluding remark,
- make a prediction about the story,
- or make a suggestion.

Sample 1 My Shopping North's Nightmare

(1) I'll never forget the first time I got lost in La Paz City. (2) I was traveling with my parents during summer vacation. (3) We were in a department store, and I was so excited to see such a huge place. (4) Suddenly, I turned around to ask my mom something, but she was gone! (5) I began crying and screaming at the top of my lungs. (6) A salesclerk came up to me ~~and dad came running toward me~~ and ask if I was okay. (7) She got on the public address (P.A.) system and notified the customers that a little boy with blue jeans and a red cap was lost. (8) Two minutes later my mom and dad came running toward me. (9) We all cried and hugged each other. (10) I'll never forget that day as long as I live.

Sample 2

A Trip to the Country

One day a father and his rich family took his young son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose to show him how poor people can be. They spent a day and a night in the farm of a very poor family. When they got back from their trip the father asked his son, “How was the trip?” The boy replied, “Very good, Dad!” The father continued, “Did you see how poor people can be?” The boy just said, “Yeah!” The father asked again, “And what did you learn?” The boy answered, “I saw that we have a dog at home, and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of the garden; they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lamps in the garden, they have the stars; our patio reaches to the front yard, they have a whole horizon. When the little boy was finishing, his father was speechless. The son added, “Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are!”

A question.. Can we write a narrative paragraph in present tense?
Yes as in the following example

Tum Teav

(1) Tum Teav is an interesting story. (2) The story is a real love tragedy happened in the 16th century in presently Kampong Cham province. (3) It is widely taught in high school. (4) The story begins when Tum and Teav fall in love at their first sight. (5) Their love is so deep that they have abused the traditional barriers and engaged in a premarriage love affair – it is strongly prohibited in Khmer culture. (6) Not long after, Teav’s mum arranges a marriage with rich guy for Teav, but fails. (7) Then, Teav is selected as a concubine and sent to the capital. (8) The king admires her so much, but with mercy he offers Tum and Teav a wedding. (9) As dissatisfaction grows, Teav’s mum rearranges the marriage with the previous guy. (10) Teav is deceived and comes back home. (11) With worry, Tum follows her. (12) Tum arrival at Teav’s wedding marks end of the story. (13) Tum is caught and executed. (14) Teav, with love for her husband, commits suicide. (15) The couple death outrages the king that he orders execution for those involved in the tragedy. (16) The story, I believe, is so appealing.

Sample Explanation

- The topic sentence is sentence (1). It tells the purpose, that's what the writer will write about.
- The background information includes sentences (2) and (3). Sentence (2) tells what the story is about, and when and where it happens. Sentence (3) tells the source of the story.
- The story comprises of sentence (4) to (15).– Sentence (4) and (5) tell the beginning of the story.– Sentence (6)-(11), which is middle of the story, tell the main events happen in the story.– Sentence (12)-(15) tells the end of the story.
- Sentence (16) is the concluding sentence. It restates the topic sentence.

