

WALT write in paragraphs.

# What is a paragraph?

A paragraph is a group of sentences that deals with one main idea or topic. A long piece of writing is much easier to read if it is divided into paragraphs.

Paragraphs also make it easier for us to write. It is much easier to plan our writing in paragraphs and check our punctuation for each one.

## When do we start a new paragraph?

- Change in place
- Change in time
- Change in person - this can be a different character being introduced or a different person talking.
  - Change in viewpoint
  - Change in topic/focus

Let's read the opening of Kensuke's Kingdom and decide why they have started a new paragraph.

I disappeared on the night before my twelfth birthday. July 28 1988. Only now can I at last tell the whole extraordinary story, the true story. Kensuke made me promise that I would say nothing, nothing at all, until at least ten years had passed. It was almost the last thing he said to me. I promised, and because of that I have had to live out a lie. I could let sleeping lies sleep on, but more than ten years have passed now. I have done school, done college, and had time to think. I owe it to my family and to my friends, all of whom I have deceived for so long, to tell the truth about my long disappearance, about how I lived to come back from the dead.

But there is another reason for speaking out now, a far, far better reason. Kensuke was a great man, a good man, and he was my friend. I want the world to know him as I knew him.

Until I was nearly eleven, until the letter came, life was just normal. There were the four of us in the house: my mother, my father, me and Stella – Stella Artois, that is, my-on-ear up and one-ear-down black and white sheepdog, who always seemed to know what was about to happen before it did. But even she could not have foreseen how that letter was going to change our lives for ever.

Thinking back, there was a regularity, a sameness about my early childhood. It was down the road each morning to ‘the monkey school’. My father called it that because he said the children gibbered and screeched and hung upside down on the climbing-frame in the playground. And, anyway, I was always ‘monkey face’ to him – when he was in a playful mood, that is, which he often was. The school was really called St Joseph’s, and I was happy there, for most of the time, anyway. After school every day, whatever the weather, I’d be off down to the recreation ground for football with Eddie Dodds, my best friend in all the world, and Matt and Bobby and the others. It was muddy down there. Cross the ball and it would just land and stick. We had our own team, the Mudlarks we called ourselves, and we were good, too. Visiting teams seemed to expect the ball to bounce for some reason, and by the time they realised it didn’t, we were often two or three goals up. We weren’t so good away from home.

Every weekend I did a paper found from Mr Patel’s shop on the corner. I was saving up for a mountain bike. I wanted to go mountain biking up on the moors with Eddie. The trouble was, I would keep spending what I’d saved. I’m still the same that way.

Now we are going to look at some ideas and put them into paragraphs.

Let's look at ways that we can plan our paragraphs before we start our writing.

Subject of writing:		
Paragraph 1	Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3
Area:	Area:	Area:
Notes to include:	Notes to include:	Notes to include:

# Subject of writing: Mountain Walking

Paragraph 1	Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3
Area: <b>Clothes</b>	Area: <b>Fitness</b>	Area: <b>Navigation</b>
Notes to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Waterproofs</b></li><li>• <b>Weather – wind etc</b></li><li>• <b>Boots</b></li><li>• <b>Keeping dry</b></li><li>• <b>No jeans!</b></li></ul>	Notes to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Carrying sack</b></li><li>• <b>All day walk</b></li><li>• <b>No buses!</b></li><li>• <b>Resting – drinking &amp; eating</b></li></ul>	Notes to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Accurate map of area</b></li><li>• <b>Know how to use it!</b></li><li>• <b>Compass</b></li><li>• <b>Footpaths, cairns etc</b></li></ul>

When you go walking in the mountains it is important that you wear the right sort of clothing. Clothes that are light and that dry easily, if you get wet, are really useful so it is not a good idea to wear jeans because they become very heavy and uncomfortable when they are wet. You will also need a strong pair of boots that support you so you don't fall over and twist your ankle. Waterproofs are valuable too as it often rains in the mountains (especially when I go walking!). There are now lots of fancy walking clothes available, that hold the moisture away if you get hot and sweaty, although these can be expensive.



Although you don't need to be super-fit to walk in the mountains you do need a certain degree of fitness because there are no buses or taxis and you have to be able to get off the hill yourself. You also have to carry a rucksack containing all of your food, drink and waterproofs and this can make you tired if you are not fit. It is important, so that you don't get too tired, that you rest and eat and drink often. You should even eat and drink at times when you don't feel hungry or thirsty because if you are feeling this way you have already used most of your energy.

When you go walking in the mountains it is important that you can find your way around. You need to have a good and accurate map of the area and be able to use it. Maps that are designed for showing roads are not usually good enough on the hills. You may also need to take a compass because sometimes you find yourself surrounded by cloud and then you have to follow compass bearings. It does help to follow footpaths and there are often cairns and piles of rock to help, however you should not rely on these.

Look at the sentence on your sheet. Can you organise them into the different topics for each paragraph? Work with your partner.

In the garden

Inside of the house

Outside the house

Now in pairs, can you write 3 paragraphs - one for each setting/topic.

Work together and re-read to check your punctuation.

We will share each others work.