

## Day 1

### Learn the paragraph - the basic unit of English Composition

Today I will learn:

What is paragraph?

How do I recognize the paragraph?

Types of paragraphs

#### What is a paragraph?

1. Paragraph is the **basic unit of English Composition**.
2. A paragraph consists of **a group of related sentences** that **develop one central idea**.
3. There is **no specific number of words or sentences** in a paragraph. These factors depend on the function and content of the paragraph. A given paragraph may consist of only one sentence. **In general, English paragraphs have more than three sentences and average about 150 words.**

#### How do I recognize the paragraph?

3. A paragraph can be recognized by its **physical appearance** on the page.
  - a. **The first word** in a paragraph is **indented** – moved a few spaces to the right of the left hand margin.
  - b. **Spacing** separates them.

#### Example :

A paragraph consists of a group of related sentences that develop one central idea. A paragraph can be recognized by its physical appearance on the page. The first word in a paragraph is indented – moved a few spaces to the right of the left hand margin. The word “A” that begins this paragraph is indented.

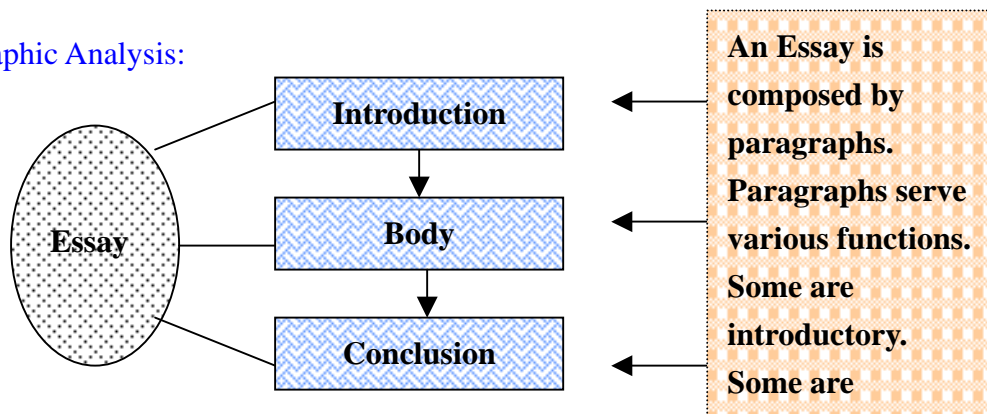
Instead, spacing separates them. In fact, both spacing and indentation may be used to separate paragraphs as they are on this box.

#### Types of paragraph

1. Paragraphs may serve **various functions** within a composition.

2. Some are **introductory** and some are **transitional**. Others serve as **conclusions**, while still others develop specific content.

Graphic Analysis:



3. We will learn more about Introduction, Body and Conclusion of an essay in day 5. Nowadays, these three components of an essay are introduced below.

**What is Introduction?**

1. Introduction contains some information to **interest the reader**. They are:
  - a. Brief narration or description
  - b. Anecdote
  - c. Explanation of a writer's expertise
  - d. Startling fact
  - e. Definition of terms
  - f. Statistics
  - g. Vivid contrast
  - h. Background information
  - i. Rhetorical question
  - j. Introduction of a person
  - k. Quotation
  - l. Historical detail
  - m. Humor
  - n. Figurative language
2. Introduction must contain a **thesis Statement**:
  - a. Statement of **intent** or statement of **opinion** (not a fact or a question)
  - b. Statement that contains a **controlling idea(s)** – the ideas that will be developed in the essay.

**What is developing paragraphs – body?**

1. Paragraphs which **support or substantiate the thesis statement** with facts, examples, personal experience, or physical description.
2. Paragraphs which themselves **have topic sentences**.
3. Paragraphs which are organized according to different methods of development:
  - a. Development
  - b. Classification

- c. Chronological order
- d. Logical order
- e. Comparison/contrast
- f. Analogy
- g. Cause/effect

#### **What is conclusion?**

1. Paragraph that **ends the essay**.
2. Paragraph that may contain one or more of the following:
  - a. Summary
  - b. Restatement of thesis statement
  - c. Anecdote
  - d. Question
  - e. Dramatic narrative
  - f. Key climatic point
  - g. Quotation
  - h. Thesis statement
  - i. Poetry
  - j. Figurative language
  - k. Prediction
  - l. Recommendation
  - m. Evaluation

#### **Main points to remember:**

1. A paragraph is a group of related sentences.
2. The first word of every paragraph is indented.

**Day 1 course is finished.**