

Literacy Moment: Week Beginning 17/09/16



Week 3: Paragraphs

1. What is a 'paragraph'? Discuss this with the people around you. **You have only 30 seconds**, but you **must use the word 'sentence(s)'** somewhere in your definition!
2. Does this definition help? Do you want to change your original description?

***Paragraph (noun):** a distinct section of a piece of writing, usually dealing with a single theme and indicated by a new line, indentation, or numbering.*

Key word: **Noun** – A name of an object.

What's the difference between this and a proper noun (the one that needs a capital letter)?

Week 3: Paragraphs

So, a paragraph is a **set of sentences grouped by theme or topic**. This means that it is a way to give structure to our writing and **order our** ideas effectively. For example:

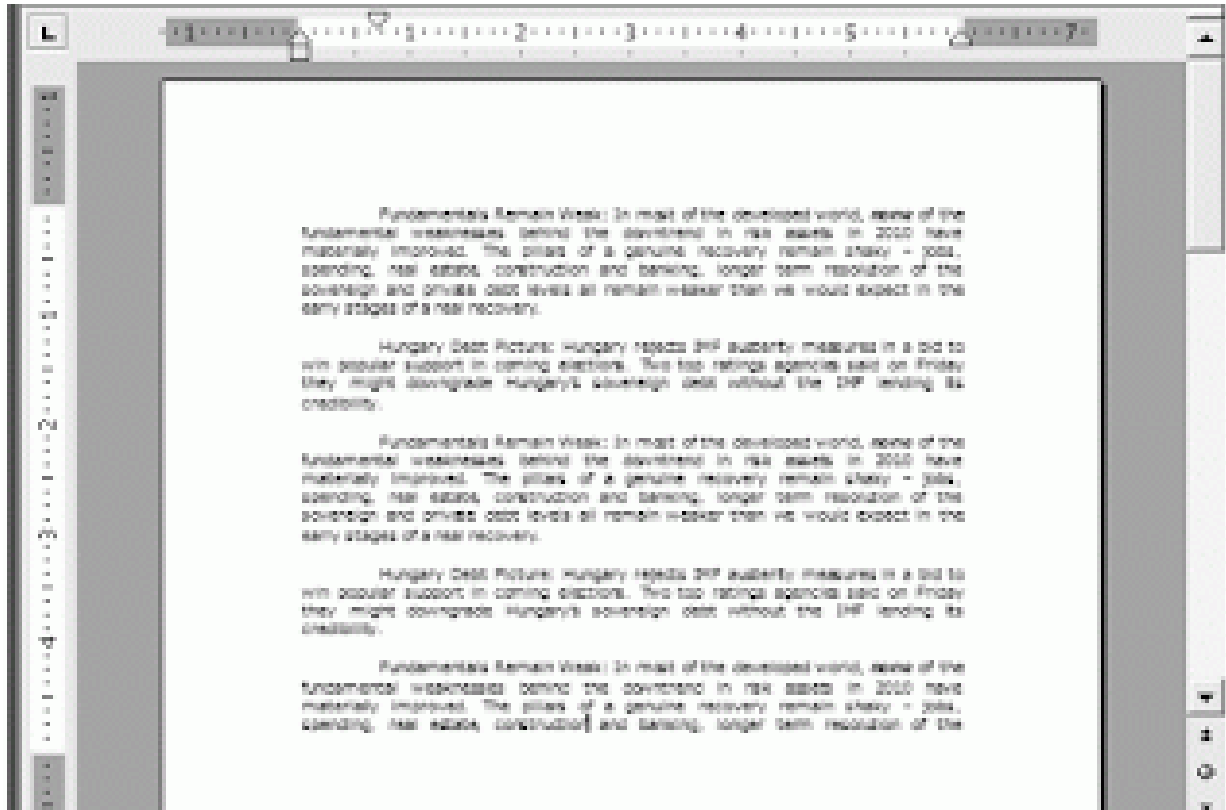
I ate an entire pizza! It was absolutely delicious, topped with bubbling melted mozzarella and slices of spicy pepperoni arranged lovingly on top.

After I'd finished, I needed a lie-down. It was one of the greatest things I've ever eaten. And I've eaten a deep-fried Mars bar.

What do you notice about the way these are presented?

Week 3: Paragraphs

There are two ways to present paragraphs, and this picture shows both! What do you notice?



They are **indented** and they **leave a line!**
Either is fine, but pick one and **be consistent!**

Week 3: Paragraphs

How do paragraphs look on the page?

You can **either**:

- 1. Leave a line.** This is more common when typing your work.
- 2. Go onto the next line (no gap), but indent on the left for two centimetres** (like a finger space you used to do in primary school!).

This is how paragraphs look when you just leave a line in your work. This is good for making it clear to your reader that you know how to paragraph!

The downside is that it is quite a basic way to do it, and if you look in novels, most of them will be presented in the other way.

This is how paragraphs look when you indent . The first paragraph of your work / a new chapter is never indented!

Each following paragraph however, is. This technique shows a high level of understanding about the technical accuracy in English!

These paragraphs, as you can see, are just as clear as the other style!

Week 3: Paragraphs

If you choose to indent...

This is the **more advanced** way to present your paragraphs. You don't leave a line.

Golden rule for this:

**YOU NEVER INDENT YOUR
FIRST PARAGRAPH!**

Check the diagram on the previous page!

Week 3: Paragraphs

Above all, **be consistent**. Pick one style and stick with it. It shows **care** and **structure** in your work.

An easy way to remember when to paragraph is to use the mnemonic:

'Tip Top'!

- Ti: **TIME**
- P: **PERSON**
- To: **TOPIC**
- P: **PLACE**



Week 3: Paragraphs

So, we start a new paragraph when:

1. We change the topic in our writing.
2. We change the time in which the piece is set.
3. When the setting of our work changes.
4. When we mention a new character.
5. When a different character speaks.



Week 3: Paragraphs

Look at the text below. Can you work out where it should be paragraphed?

This is from Peter Kay's autobiography: *'The Sound of Laughter'*

When I first took the job at the garage, I was surprisingly shy. I wouldn't have said boo to a goose, which never turned out to be a problem as we didn't have much poultry buying petrol. But I got so stressed with my new job that I almost quit after the first few shifts. I'd never had to deal with the public before; handling money, swiping credit cards, it was all too much for a seventeen year old to cope with. I was used to packing toilet rolls and I'd spent most of my life surrounded by family and friends...and nuns. Ironically, it was the customers that coaxed me out of my shell, because they were miserable sods and treated me like rubbish.

Week 3: Paragraphs

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Key Words from Today's Session...

Sentence: The whole system and structure of language

Clause: A part of a sentence containing a verb and other components.

Paragraph: A series of sentences which are grouped together by theme.

Remember:

Paragraphs, like sentences, can **vary in length**. Show off your **control of language!**