

## 2 | Paragraph Basics



Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez greets people from a train window in his hometown of Aracataca, Colombia.

### OBJECTIVES

- Identify topic, supporting, and concluding sentences
- Use adjectives
- Use subject and object pronouns
- Write an original paragraph

### FREWRITE

| Look at the photo and read the caption. What is happening? Why?



# ELEMENTS OF GREAT WRITING

## What Is a Paragraph?

A **paragraph** is a group of sentences about one topic or idea. It has four main parts:

- an indented (moved in) first line
- a topic sentence that gives the main idea
- a body of sentences all about the main idea
- a concluding sentence

### ACTIVITY 1 | Analyzing paragraphs

Read the paragraphs and answer the questions that follow.

#### WORDS TO KNOW Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.2

**amazing:** (adj) causing great surprise or wonder  
**bother:** (v) to annoy someone

**comfortable:** (adj) relaxed and restful  
**relax:** (v) to stop work and enjoy oneself

#### PARAGRAPH 2.1

### The Best Place to Relax

My back porch is my favorite place to **relax**. First, it has a lot of **comfortable** chairs with soft pillows. I feel so good when I sit in them. My back porch is also very quiet. I can sit and think there. I can even read a great book and nobody **bothers** me. Finally, in the evening, I can sit on my porch and watch the sunset. Watching the beautiful colors always calms me. I can relax in many places, but my back porch is the best.



1. The topic sentence is the first sentence. Write it here.

2. What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. The writer likes watching the sunset.
- b. The writer likes to read a book in a quiet place.
- c. The writer likes to relax on her back porch.

3. Write the four things the writer does to relax on her porch.

- a. *She sits in comfortable chairs.*
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many sentences are in this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

5. The concluding sentence is the last sentence. Write it here.

#### PARAGRAPH 2.2

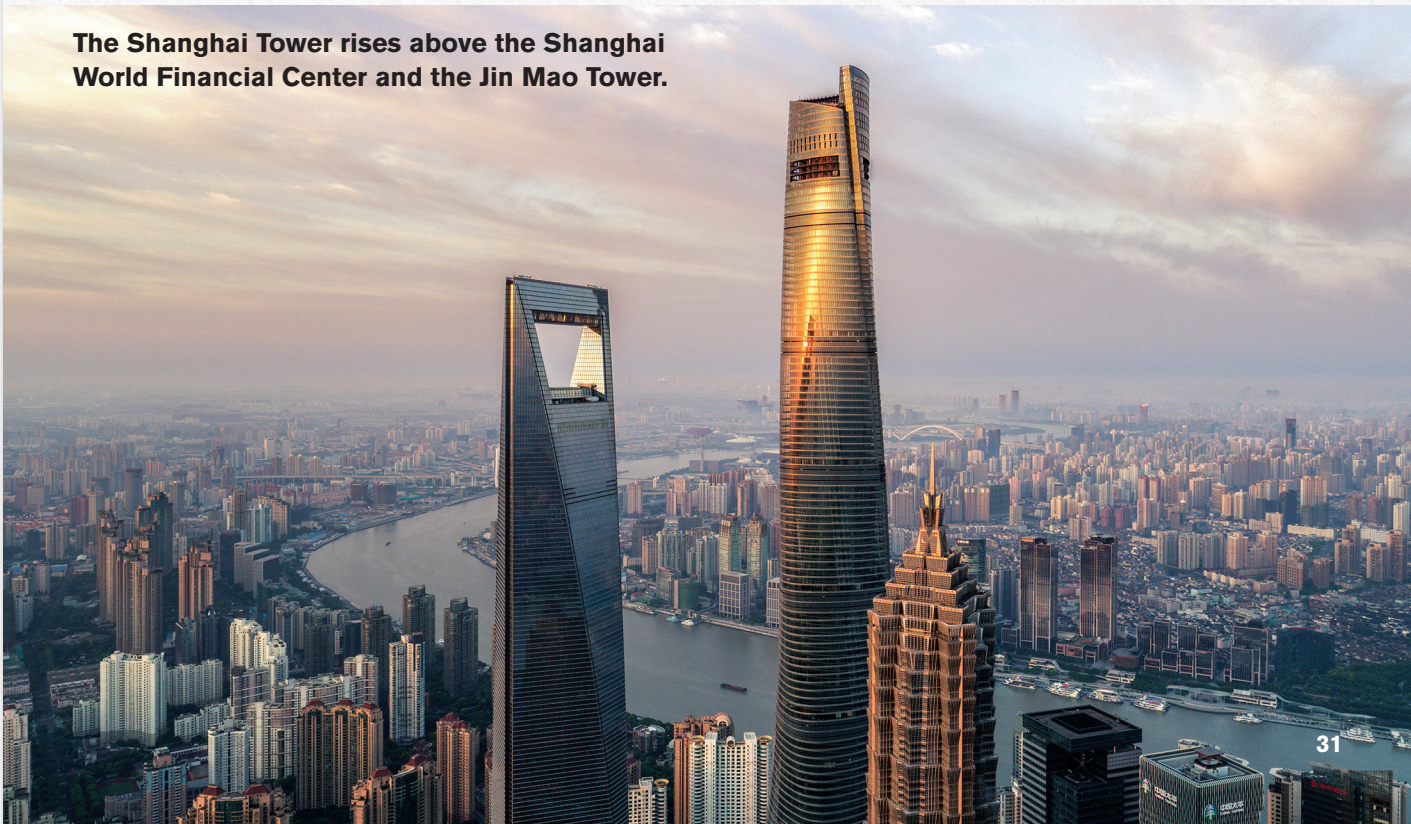
### The Shanghai Tower

The Shanghai Tower in China is an **amazing** building. It is the tallest building in Shanghai’s business district<sup>1</sup>, and the second-tallest building in the world. The tower has 128 floors, and there are more levels below the building. It has 107 elevators, and they can move 40 mph. There are beautiful gardens on many floors, and the Shanghai Tower has one of the world’s highest observation decks<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the tower is good for the environment. Special machines use the wind to make extra electricity for the building, and the building uses rainwater to keep it cool inside. The Shanghai Tower is amazing inside and out.

<sup>1</sup>district: an area of a city or a country

<sup>2</sup>observation deck: the top of a building where people can look at everything below

The Shanghai Tower rises above the Shanghai World Financial Center and the Jin Mao Tower.





1. What is the topic sentence? Write it here.
2. What is the main idea of this paragraph?

a. The Shanghai Tower is good for the environment.

b. The Shanghai Tower is tall.

c. The Shanghai Tower is wonderful.
3. Write six amazing things about the Shanghai Tower.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.
4. How many sentences are in this paragraph?
5. What is the concluding sentence? Write it here.

Mechanics: The Title of a Paragraph

A **title** gives the reader information about what is in a paragraph. A good title:

- tells the main topic, but does not tell about everything in the paragraph
- is usually short—sometimes only one word
- does not have a period at the end
- does not begin with *My Paragraph*
- follows special capitalization rules

The capitalization rules for titles are:

- always capitalize the first letter of the first word
- only capitalize the first letter of the important words in the rest of the title
- do not capitalize a preposition or an article unless it is the first word

How to Take a Good Picture with a Cell Phone  
An Amazing Vacation

ACTIVITY 2 | Editing titles

With a partner discuss what is wrong with each title. Then edit each one to make it a good title.

1. AN INFLUENTIAL INVENTOR
2. A Handbook For International Students In Canada
3. Three Types of Transportation.
4. My Paragraph on a New Technology
5. How to Become an Engineer at NASA in a Very Short Amount of Time
6. The ten Best Movies of All Time
7. This Was the Best Day of My Life.
8. My first car
9. an Unusual Animal
10. the first female astronaut

ACTIVITY 3 | Writing a paragraph

Answer the questions. Use complete sentences.

1. Who is a popular person in your country?
- 
2. Where is this person from?
- 
3. What does this person do?
- 
4. Why is this person popular?
- 
5. Do you like this person? Why or why not?
- 

Now write your sentences in paragraph form on a separate piece of paper. Remember to indent the first line and give your paragraph a title.



Parts of a Paragraph: The Topic Sentence

A good paragraph has a **topic sentence**. The topic sentence:

- tells the main idea of the whole paragraph
- is often the first sentence
- should not be too specific or too general

If a paragraph does not have a topic sentence, the reader may be confused because the organization of ideas will not be clear.

ACTIVITY 4 | Identifying topic sentences

Paragraphs 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 are each missing a topic sentence. Read each paragraph. Then choose the best topic sentence.

WORDS TO KNOW Paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5

- accident:** (n) a harmful or unpleasant event that happens by surprise

**compete:** (v) to participate in a contest

**damage:** (v) to hurt or injure

**danger:** (n) a harmful situation

**during:** (prep) all through a time period

**energy:** (n) activity
- explore:** (v) to travel around to learn more; to investigate

**extremely:** (adv) very

**fan:** (n) a person who likes something very much

**traffic:** (n) the movement of cars, trucks, and so on in an area



PARAGRAPH 2.3

The Problems with Snow

Snow is beautiful when it falls. However, the snow is not beautiful for very long. When it starts to melt<sup>1</sup>, the clean streets become wet and difficult to walk on. The sidewalks are slippery<sup>2</sup>. Snow also causes **traffic** problems. Some roads are closed. Other roads are difficult to drive on safely. Drivers have more **accidents** on snowy roads. There are more problems with snow than reasons to like it.

<sup>1</sup>melt: to change from a solid to a liquid  
<sup>2</sup>slippery: causing people or things to fall or slide

- a. In December, it usually snows.
- b. Snow does not cause many problems.
- c. Snow is beautiful, but it causes many problems.

PARAGRAPH 2.4

My Favorite City

I love to see all the interesting landmarks<sup>1</sup> there. I always visit the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. It is also fun to **explore** different areas of the city. My favorites are Chinatown and Manhattan. Most importantly, New York City is full of **energy**. People from all over the world walk on its streets, play in its parks, and eat its wonderful food. I never feel bored or alone when I am there. I truly<sup>2</sup> love New York City.

<sup>1</sup>landmark: a historic building or other point of interest  
<sup>2</sup>truly: really; sincerely

- a. My favorite city is New York City.
- b. New York City is a very busy city.
- c. New York City is also full of energy.

PARAGRAPH 2.5

Road Cycling

In road cycling, cyclists **compete** on public<sup>1</sup> roads. These roads are usually good, but rain can make them very slippery. Serious accidents are common **during** this weather. Cyclists also ride very close together. If a rider falls, many of the others around him also fall. These accidents can **damage** bikes and hurt the riders. Finally, the cyclists are also in **danger** from their **fans**. Spectators<sup>2</sup> stand along the roads as the bikes speed<sup>3</sup> past. Fans often run next to the riders or try to touch them, and this can cause terrible problems. Road cycling may look like a safe sport, but it can be **extremely** dangerous.

<sup>1</sup>public: meant for use by the people in the community  
<sup>2</sup>spectator: someone who watches an event  
<sup>3</sup>speed: to move quickly

- a. Road cycling can be a dangerous sport.
- b. Road cycling fans can be a danger to bike riders.
- c. Road cycling is an extremely exciting sport.

Cyclists on the cycling Tour of Oman





ACTIVITY 5 | Writing topic sentences

Read the paragraphs and write a topic sentence for each one. Remember to indent. Then read the paragraphs again. Make sure that each topic sentence gives the main idea for the whole paragraph.

WORDS TO KNOW Paragraphs 2.6 to 2.8

**check:** (v) to look for information  
**connect:** (v) to reach by phone or Internet  
**explain:** (v) to give information about; make clear  
**organized:** (adj) in good order

**patient:** (adj) calm; not easily upset  
**plan:** (v) to prepare for something  
**taste:** (v) to sense the flavor of food and liquids

PARAGRAPH 2.6

Pasta, Pasta, Pasta

First, pasta **tastes** great. Sometimes I eat it plain<sup>1</sup>. However, I also like it with butter or cheese. Another reason I like pasta is the variety. There are many types of pasta, but my favorites are spaghetti, macaroni, vermicelli, and lasagna. In addition, pasta is very easy to prepare. I can make pasta in less than 10 minutes. Finally, pasta is a very healthy food for me. A plate of pasta has about 300 calories<sup>2</sup>, but it has only three grams of fat. I love to eat pasta every day.

<sup>1</sup>plain: simple; with nothing added  
<sup>2</sup>calorie: a measure of energy produced by food

PARAGRAPH 2.7

Why I Love My Tablet<sup>1</sup>

First, it **connects** me to my school and class. I **check** my class website for daily assignments and videos. In addition, I put all the due dates<sup>2</sup> for tests and homework into the tablet's calendar so that I am always ready for class. All my textbooks are also on it. I do not need to carry many heavy textbooks anymore. Finally, I use the tablet to complete all my writing assignments. When I finish them, I just email my work to my teacher. I never go to school without my tablet.

<sup>1</sup>tablet: a portable computer controlled by touch  
<sup>2</sup>due date: the day something must be completed



A math teacher in Afghanistan

PARAGRAPH 2.8

Good Teachers

First, good teachers are **patient**. They **explain** things again and again. In addition, they are **organized**. They **plan** for every class. Good teachers are also encouraging<sup>1</sup>. They help students understand the subject. Finally, good teachers are fair<sup>2</sup>. They do not give too much or too little work, and they grade students on how good their work is. These are some important qualities<sup>3</sup> of good teachers.

<sup>1</sup>encouraging: giving strength or hope  
<sup>2</sup>fair: just; reasonable  
<sup>3</sup>quality: something typical of someone’s character and personality

Parts of a Paragraph: Supporting Sentences

Every paragraph must have sentences that support the topic sentence. These sentences make up **the body** of the paragraph and are called **supporting sentences**. They:

- give more information about the topic, such as details, examples, or reasons
- should not include ideas that are unrelated or unconnected to the topic

Read the paragraph below. The two underlined sentences are unrelated to the topic.

Making Chili

Chili is an easy dish to prepare. To make chili, cut up one large onion. Then fry it in a little vegetable oil. Next, add fresh garlic and some chili peppers. When the onions are soft, add one pound of ground meat. Stir until the meat is cooked. Sprinkle one tablespoon of red chili powder on top. There are many types of chili powder. After that, add four cups of diced tomatoes, one cup of water, and one can of red beans. Cover the pot and cook over low heat for about one hour. Fried chicken also takes about an hour to prepare. This simple recipe creates a delicious dinner.



ACTIVITY 6 | Identifying unrelated sentences

Underline the topic sentence and cross out the two unrelated sentences in each paragraph.

PARAGRAPH 2.9

My Office

My office has everything I need to do my work. On the left side of the room, there is a large desk. My computer sits on top of the desk, and the printer sits under it. I keep important documents in its drawers. On the right side of the room, there are two beautiful bookcases. They are full of books, magazines, and computer software. My father makes bookcases and other wood furniture. A telephone and a fax machine are on a small table next to my closet. I have trouble remembering my fax number. All my office supplies are in the closet. I enjoy my office very much.

PARAGRAPH 2.10

An Energetic Neighbor

My 96-year-old neighbor, Mrs. Wills, lives alone and takes care of herself. My grandmother lived to be 87. Mrs. Wills goes to the grocery store by herself, and she does all her own cooking. She does not like to eat white rice. Mrs. Wills also cleans her own house. She puts her heavy garbage can by the street for trash collection every week. She exercises by walking on the beach. I hope to have that much energy when I am 96 years old.

A Yupik elder woman harvests grass for baskets in Alaska, USA.



PARAGRAPH 2.11

Changing Celsius to Fahrenheit

Changing temperatures from Celsius to Fahrenheit is not difficult. First, multiply the Celsius temperature by 9. Then divide this answer by 5. When you finish, add 32 to your answer. The result is the temperature in Fahrenheit. Most countries report temperatures in Celsius, but the United States reports them in Fahrenheit. For example, if the Celsius temperature is 20, you multiply 20 by 9. Then you divide the answer, 180, by 5. The result is 36. If you get a different number, check your math mistake. Next, add 32, and you have the correct Fahrenheit temperature, 68. Now you can easily change a temperature from Celsius to Fahrenheit.

Grammar: Adjective + Noun

When you write, you can make a sentence much more interesting if you add descriptive words. These descriptive words are called **adjectives**. They describe nouns (people, places, things, and ideas).

	ADJECTIVE(S)	NOUN
I have a	<b>heavy</b>	bag.
This is my	<b>new</b>	bicycle.
Michael goes to an	<b>excellent</b>	college.
Rachel draws	<b>small ink</b>	pictures.

Sometimes you can combine two short sentences by putting the adjective(s) before the noun.

TWO SHORT SENTENCES	BETTER WRITING
<div>nadj</div> <div>There is a <u>volcano</u>. It is <b>huge</b>.</div>	<div>adjn</div> <div>There is a <b>huge</b> <u>volcano</u>.</div>
<div>nadj</div> <div>Susan is an <u>athlete</u>. She is <b>talented</b>.</div>	<div>adjn</div> <div>Susan is a <b>talented</b> <u>athlete</u>.</div>
<div>adjnadj</div> <div>Sami drives an <b>old</b> <u>car</u>. It is <b>silver</b>.</div>	<div>adjadjn</div> <div>Sami drives an <b>old silver</b> <u>car</u>.</div>
<div>adjn</div> <div>Lisa collects <b>small</b> <u>photographs</u>. These</div> <div><div>nadj</div><div><u>photographs</u> are <b>antique</b>.</div></div>	<div>adjadjn</div> <div>Lisa collects <b>small antique</b> <u>photographs</u>.</div>

For more information about order of adjectives, see the *Writer’s Handbook*.



WRITER'S NOTE Adjective Form

Adjectives have only one form. There is no plural form.

- ✓ The university has **online** classes.
- ✗ The university has onlines classes.

ACTIVITY 7 | Describing nouns with adjectives

Combine the related sentences into one sentence. Some words are not used. Use correct capitalization and punctuation.

1. Rob owns a car. The car is red.

Rob owns a red car.
2. I do not like this weather. The weather is cold.
3. Paris is a city in France. This city is beautiful.
4. Ali has a job. The job is new.
5. They like to drink coffee. The coffee is very hot.
6. Nina reads stories. They are funny.
7. My mother grows roses. The roses are big. The roses are beautiful.
8. Juan works for a company. The company is large. The company is international.
9. My grandparents live in a town. It is a farming town. The town is small.
10. Sharon rents a house on Smith Street. The house is white. The house is tiny.

Grammar: Linking Verb + Adjective

A **linking verb** connects the subject to the words after the verb. *Be* is a linking verb. Other linking verbs are related to the five senses: sight, taste, touch, smell, and hearing. If the main verb of a sentence is a linking verb, the adjective comes after the verb.

SUBJECT	LINKING VERB	ADJECTIVE
The boys	<b>are</b>	young.
I	<b>am</b>	sleepy.
That house	<b>is</b>	big.
Justin	<b>looks</b>	ill.
The grapes	<b>taste</b>	delicious.
The hot water	<b>feels</b>	good.
These flowers	<b>smell</b>	sweet.
Sohee's plan	<b>sounds</b>	interesting.
Tony and Ron	<b>seem</b>	nervous.

ACTIVITY 8 | Identifying adjectives

There are ten adjectives in the paragraph. Find and underline them. Circle any linking verbs.

WORDS TO KNOW Paragraph 2.12

**culture:** (n) ideas, activities, and behaviors that are special to a people, country, or region

**dream:** (n) a hope for something

PARAGRAPH 2.12

My Dream Vacation

I have a **dream** to visit Alaska. The weather is beautiful there. I love cold weather. When the temperature is low, I have energy! I also want to visit Alaska because I love nature. Alaska looks so pure<sup>1</sup>. I dream about its amazing snowy mountains. In addition, there are unique<sup>2</sup> animals to see. Finally, I want to learn about the native<sup>3</sup> people of Alaska. Their **culture** sounds very interesting to me. I really want to visit this wonderful state soon.

<sup>1</sup>pure: clean; not dirty or polluted  
<sup>2</sup>unique: one of a kind  
<sup>3</sup>native: coming from or belonging to a particular place



ACTIVITY 9 | Writing sentences

Look at the photo and read the caption. Write seven to nine sentences about the photo. Use *there is/there are*, prepositional phrases of place, and/or adjectives.

- 1. The market is in Indonesia.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_



Lok Baintan floating market in Indonesia

Sequence Words and Phrases

We use **sequence words and phrases** to show the order of ideas in a paragraph. Notice the sequence words in Paragraph 2.1, “The Best Place to Relax.”

My back porch is my favorite place to relax. **First**, it has a lot of comfortable chairs with soft pillows. . . . My back porch is **also** very quiet. . . . **Finally**, in the evening, I can sit on my porch and watch the sunset.

Some other sequence words and phrases are *next*, *in addition*, *then*, and *last*.

ACTIVITY 10 | Ordering sentences

Put the supporting sentences in order from 1 to 8. The topic sentence (TS) is marked for you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Doctors say that one hour of exercise each day can keep you in good shape.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. First, you need to eat healthy food.
- TS \_\_\_\_\_ c. It is easy to stay healthy if you follow some simple steps.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. This allows your body to rest and become stronger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. The best types of food to eat are fruits and vegetables.
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. Exercise is also good for your mind.
- \_\_\_\_\_ g. Finally, you need to find time to relax.
- \_\_\_\_\_ h. You should eat a lot of them every day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ i. Next, you need to do some exercise.



Grammar: Subject and Object Pronouns

When you write about a topic, using the same noun again and again in your paragraph can make your writing sound repetitive.

**Alisa** lives in the city. **Alisa** likes the noise and the crowds, but **Alisa** does not like the stress.

Alisa has **many friends**. She talks to **these friends** every day. She sees **these friends** every weekend.

To make your writing more interesting, replace some nouns with pronouns.

**Subject pronouns** come before the verb.

SINGULAR SUBJECT PRONOUN		PLURAL SUBJECT PRONOUN	
I	live in Panama.	We	live in Panama.
You	work in a bank.	You	work in a bank.
He/She/It	is from Turkey.	They	are from Turkey.

In the following sentence, the subject pronoun *she* takes the place of *Alisa*.

**Alisa** lives in the city. **She** likes the noise and crowds, but **she** does not like the stress.

**Object pronouns** usually come after the verb.

SINGULAR OBJECT PRONOUN		PLURAL OBJECT PRONOUN	
Mona likes	me.	Mona likes	us.
I know	you.	I know	you.
Kevin understands	him/her/it.	Kevin understands	them.

In the following sentence, the object pronoun *them* takes the place of *friends*.

Alisa has many **friends**. She talks to **them** every day. She sees **them** every weekend.

An object pronoun can also come after a preposition.

	PREPOSITION	OBJECT PRONOUN
Assad walks	with	me. us. you. him/her/it. them.
They give help	to	
Jessica lives	near	

Only use a pronoun when the noun it is replacing is clear. In the following sentences, it is not clear which noun *they* replaces, *scientists* or *experiments*.

The scientists do experiments in the lab. **They** are very interesting.

In this case, it is better to use the noun.

The scientists do experiments in the lab. **These experiments** are interesting.

ACTIVITY 11 | Using subject pronouns

Replace the noun(s) in parentheses with a subject pronoun.

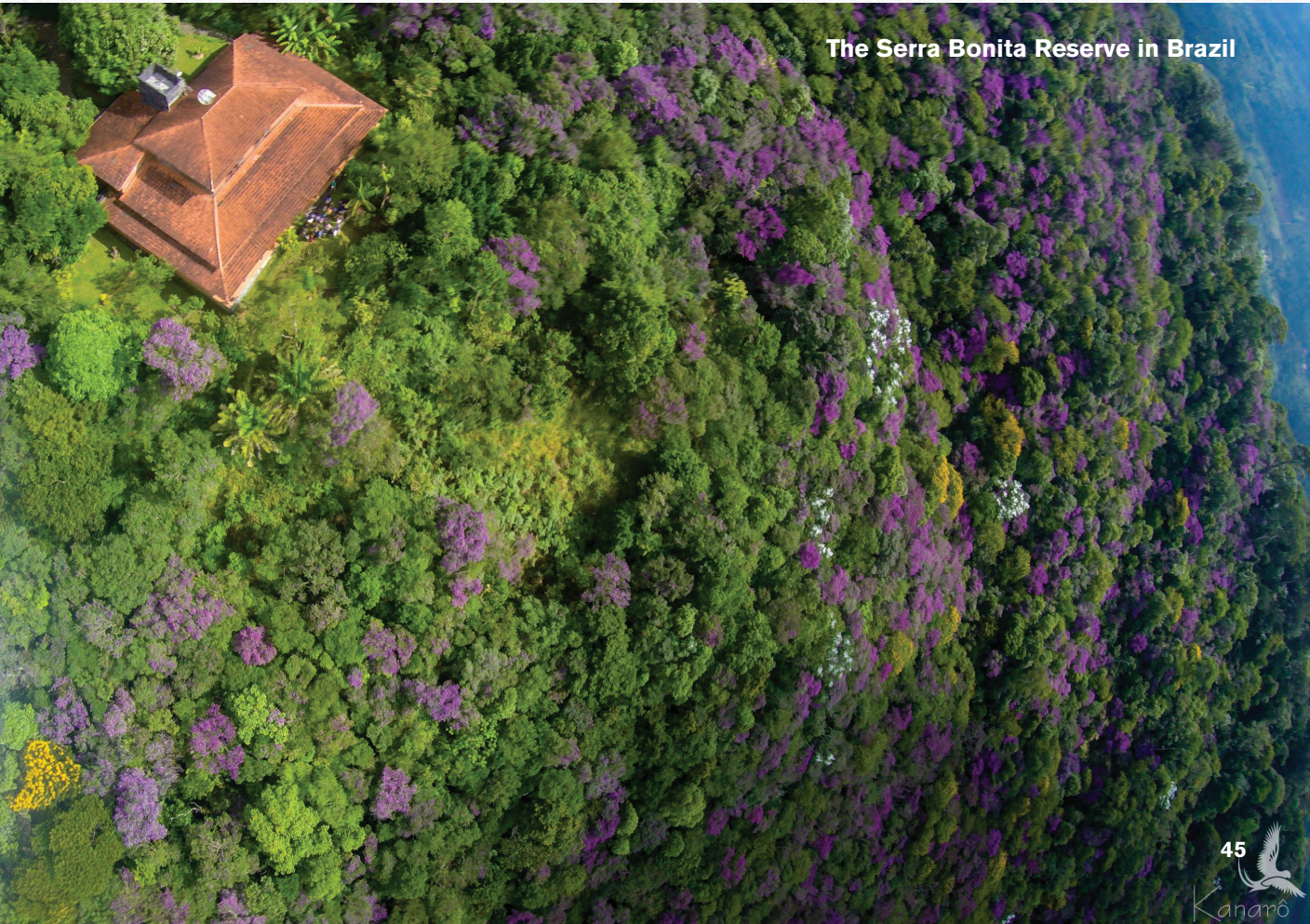
PARAGRAPH 2.13

Two Conservationists

Vitor Becker and Clemira Souza are interesting people. Vitor is a scientist.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ (Vitor Becker) is married to Clemira. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (Clemira Souza) is a professor. 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (Vitor and Clemira) are also conservationists.

4 \_\_\_\_\_ (Vitor and Clemira) work to protect the rain forest and its animals in Brazil. 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (Vitor and Clemira) created the Serra Bonita Reserve on old farmland. 6 \_\_\_\_\_ (The Serra Bonita Reserve) is in the rain forest. 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (The Serra Bonita Reserve) is Vitor and Clemira’s home. Scientists and students visit the Serra Bonita Reserve. 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (The scientists and students) study the plants and animals of this special part of the rain forest. Tourists also visit Serra Bonita. 9 \_\_\_\_\_ (The tourists) explore and learn about the reserve. Vitor and Clemira work hard every day of the week to help these visitors. 10 \_\_\_\_\_ (Vitor and Clemira) love their important home in the rain forest.





ACTIVITY 12 | Using object pronouns

Replace the noun(s) in parentheses with an object pronoun.

PARAGRAPH 2.14

My Best Friend

My best friend Gretchen is a very interesting woman. I met <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (Gretchen) ten years ago. She is from Alabama. She comes from a very large family. She has four brothers and three sisters. She does not live with <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (her brothers and sisters). They live in Alabama with their parents. Gretchen studies veterinary medicine<sup>1</sup> in another state. She loves <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (veterinary medicine) because she really cares about animals. Gretchen has three pets. She has a cat, a small bird, and a large horse, Hal. She likes <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (her pets) all very much. However, she likes Hal the best. In her free time, Gretchen plays tennis, reads books, and cooks. I love <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (Gretchen) like a sister. I hope that our friendship will stay with <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (Gretchen and me) for many years.

<sup>1</sup>veterinary medicine: medicine that deals with the care of animals

ACTIVITY 13 | Using pronouns

This paragraph uses the same nouns too many times. Cross out some nouns, and replace them with subject or object pronouns.

PARAGRAPH 2.15

Our Big Move

Andy and I have a busy day today. ~~Andy and I~~ <sup>We</sup> are very excited because we are moving into a new apartment. Andy and I have many big things to move. I have a large flat screen television. Andy and I plan to put the television next to the window. Andy’s sister and her friends will help Andy and me move today, too. Andy’s sister and her friends will move our large couch and chairs and put the couch and chairs in front of the television. Finally, Andy’s sister and her friends will move our beds. Our beds may take a long time to move because our beds are so big. However, Andy and I are not worried because Andy's sister and her friends will help Andy and me quickly finish everything on our long moving list.

Grammar: Possessive Adjectives

When you want to talk about something that belongs to someone or something, you can use a **possessive adjective**. A possessive adjective answers the question *Whose?* as in *Whose house? Whose books?* and *Whose television?*

A possessive adjective comes before the noun that it describes.

SUBJECT PRONOUN	POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE	EXAMPLE
I	my	<b>My</b> <u>house</u> is on Mariposa Avenue.
you	your	Do you have <b>your</b> <u>ticket</u> for the airplane?
he	his	Nick lives with <b>his</b> <u>father</u> .
she	her	<b>Her</b> <u>purse</u> is red and black.
it	its	A butterfly moves <b>its</b> <u>wings</u> quickly.
we	our	We write all <b>our</b> <u>papers</u> on a computer.
they	their	The students will bring <b>their</b> <u>CDs</u> .

For information on possessive pronouns, see the Writer's Handbook.

ACTIVITY 14 | Using possessive adjectives

Fill in each blank with the correct possessive adjective.

PARAGRAPH 2.16

Kate and Her Siblings

Kate has a lot of siblings. She has two sisters and one brother.

<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ names are Ashley, Julia, and Nick. Ashley and Julia live with <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ parents. They are high school students. Ashley likes to play sports. <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ favorite sport is softball. She is a very good player. Julia does not like sports, but she loves music. She plays <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ guitar every afternoon after school. Ashley and Julia have the same friends. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ friends go to the same school. <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ brother, Nick, is in college. <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ major is business administration. Kate’s brother and sisters are all very different, but she loves <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ siblings very much.



ACTIVITY 15 | Using subject pronouns and possessive adjectives

Choose the correct subject pronoun or possessive adjective.

PARAGRAPH 2.17

My Grandmother

A very important person in <sup>1</sup> (I / my) life is <sup>2</sup> (I / my) grandmother. <sup>3</sup> (She / Her) name is Evelyn Anna Kratz. <sup>4</sup> (She / Her) life is very interesting. <sup>5</sup> (She / Her) is 89 years old. <sup>6</sup> (She / Her) comes from Poland. <sup>7</sup> (She / Her) speaks English well, but <sup>8</sup> (she / her) first language is Polish. My grandmother comes from a large family. <sup>9</sup> (She / Her) has three sisters. <sup>10</sup> (They / Their) names are Karina, Dorota, and Maria. <sup>11</sup> (I / My) grandmother has one brother, too. <sup>12</sup> (He / His) name is Peter. When <sup>13</sup> (they / them) talk about <sup>14</sup> (they / their) lives, <sup>15</sup> (I / My) love to listen. In <sup>16</sup> (I / my) opinion, they are the most interesting stories in the world.

Parts of a Paragraph: The Concluding Sentence

In addition to a topic sentence and body, a good paragraph has a **concluding sentence**. The concluding sentence:

- ends the paragraph with a final thought
- often expresses the same idea as the topic sentence using different words
- does not give any new information about the topic

Look at the topic sentences and concluding sentences from a few paragraphs in this unit. Notice how they express the same ideas in different ways. Words that are important to the topic may be repeated.

TOPIC SENTENCE	CONCLUDING SENTENCE
My <u>back porch</u> is my <u>favorite place to relax</u> .	I can <u>relax</u> in many places, but my <u>back porch</u> is the best.
The <u>Shanghai Tower</u> is an <u>amazing building</u> .	The <u>Shanghai Tower</u> is <u>amazing</u> inside and out.
I have a <u>dream to visit Alaska</u> .	I really <u>want to visit</u> this wonderful <u>state</u> soon.

ACTIVITY 16 | Analyzing concluding sentences

Write the topic sentence and concluding sentence from each paragraph indicated. Then underline the similar information. Discuss your answers with a partner.

1. Paragraph 2.3

Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Concluding sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Paragraph 2.4

Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Concluding sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Paragraph 2.5

Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Concluding sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY 17 | Identifying concluding sentences

Read each paragraph and choose the best concluding sentence.

WORDS TO KNOW Paragraphs 2.18 to 2.19

**careful:** (adj) aware of danger; cautious      **celebrate:** (v) to do something to mark a special event

PARAGRAPH 2.18

Buying a Car

Buying a car requires **careful** planning. First, you must decide to buy a new or a used car. New cars can be expensive, but they are reliable. Used cars are cheaper, but they often need repairs. You must also decide on what type of car to buy. You can research different types of cars on the Internet to help you choose. The final decision is where to buy your car. Some places charge you more money than others.

- a. It is important to think about all of these things when you are buying a car.
- b. The most important thing is the kind of car that you want to buy.
- c. You can buy your new car from a friend or a car dealer.





People enjoy Hanami in Kyoto, Japan.

PARAGRAPH 2.19

Hanami

Hanami, or flower viewing, is a popular Japanese tradition. Every spring, thousands of cherry trees bloom all over Japan. For two weeks during Hanami, friends and families gather in parks and the countryside to see the beautiful flowers and **celebrate** the beginning of spring. People make a lot of food and have picnics under the trees. There is a lot of music and dancing, and large groups of people walk through the parks together. The celebrations often go into the night.

- a. People like to be with their family and friends during Hanami.
- b. Looking at flowers during Hanami is interesting.
- c. Hanami is a Japanese custom many people love.

PARAGRAPH 2.20

Mondays

I hate Mondays for many reasons. One reason is work. I get up early to go to work on Mondays. After a weekend of fun and relaxation, I do not like to do this. Another reason that I do not like Mondays is that I have three meetings every Monday. These meetings last a long time, and they are extremely boring. Traffic is also a big problem on Mondays. There are more cars on the road on Mondays. Drivers are in a hurry, and I must be more careful than usual when I drive.

- a. Mondays are worse than Tuesdays, but they are better than Sundays.
- b. I do not like meetings on Mondays.
- c. These are just a few reasons why I do not like Mondays.

ACTIVITY 18 | Writing a paragraph

Look back at Activity 10. Write the sentences in paragraph order. Remember to indent the topic sentence. Then write a concluding sentence for the paragraph.

Staying Healthy

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An AntiGravity yoga class in Boston, USA



BUILDING BETTER VOCABULARY

WORDS TO KNOW

accident (n)	compete (v)	during (prep)	organized (adj)
amazing (adj)	connect (v)	energy (n) <b>AW</b>	patient (adj)
bother (v)	culture (n) <b>AW</b>	explain (v)	plan (v)
careful (adj)	damage (v)	explore (v)	relax (v) <b>AW</b>
celebrate (v)	danger (n)	extremely (adv)	taste (v)
check (v)	dream (n)	fan (n)	traffic (n)
comfortable (adj)			

ACTIVITY 19 | Word associations

Circle the word or phrase that is more closely related to the bold word on the left.

1. <b>amazing</b>	very boring	very interesting
2. <b>bother</b>	help	annoy
3. <b>careful</b>	cautious	worried
4. <b>celebrate</b>	do an everyday activity	do something special
5. <b>compete</b>	try to finish	try to win
6. <b>danger</b>	something difficult	something unsafe
7. <b>during</b>	at the time	after the time
8. <b>extremely</b>	rarely	really
9. <b>fan</b>	love	hate
10. <b>plan</b>	finish	prepare

ACTIVITY 20 | Collocations

Fill in the blank with the word that most naturally completes the phrase.

culture	dream	explain	patient	relax
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1. be \_\_\_\_\_ while waiting
2. clearly \_\_\_\_\_ the directions
3. \_\_\_\_\_ after a long day
4. my biggest \_\_\_\_\_
5. ancient Chinese \_\_\_\_\_

accident	check	explore	taste	traffic
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6. \_\_\_\_\_ delicious
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the dictionary
8. \_\_\_\_\_ new places
9. a serious car \_\_\_\_\_
10. heavy \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY 21 | Word forms

Complete each sentence with the correct word form. Use the correct form of the nouns and verbs.

NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE	SENTENCE PRACTICE
comfort	comfort	comfortable	1. My new dress is extremely _____. 2. Parents often _____ crying children.
connection	connect	connected	3. People can _____ with each other easily through the Internet. 4. I study at this library all the time because the WiFi _____ here is very good.
damage	damage	damaged	5. High-heeled shoes _____ wooden floors. 6. The _____ car does not work.
energy	energize	energetic	7. Young children can be very _____. 8. Riders need a lot of _____ to complete a race.
organization	organize	organized	9. There are many ways to _____ a closet. 10. My boss is a very _____ woman.



ACTIVITY 22 | Vocabulary in writing

Choose five words from Words to Know. Write a complete sentence with each word.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDING BETTER SENTENCES

ACTIVITY 23 | Editing from teacher comments

Read the teacher’s comments. Then rewrite the paragraph correctly on a separate piece of paper.

PARAGRAPH 2.21

Aspirin

Aspirin is an incredible type of medicine. This small white pill is not a <sup>word order</sup> drug new. We do <sup>capitalization</sup> not know exactly why or how it works. <sup>capitalization</sup> however, millions of people use aspirin every day. <sup>incorrect pronoun</sup> They take them <sup>missing linking verb</sup> for many reasons. <sup>incorrect pronoun</sup> Aspirin good for headaches, colds, and pain. <sup>capitalization</sup> They can help with so many different health problems. <sup>word order</sup> aspirin is a simple medicine, but it <sup>word order</sup> so important is.



A climber with a headache from altitude sickness

ACTIVITY 24 | Editing sentences

Find and correct the errors. The number in parentheses tells how many errors each sentence has.

- 1. Amal a student at Seattle Community College. (1)
- 2. There is 15 floors in this building. (1)
- 3. Jim’s backpack difficult to carry. (1)
- 4. Me shirt favorite is not clean. (2)
- 5. Mysteries are a popular type of book (1)
- 6. The sun damages skin unprotected. (1)
- 7. The Shanghai Tower a building tall. (2)
- 8. Is not raining today. (1)
- 9. There are a lot of information about the project (2)
- 10. Everyone loves him beautiful smile. (1)

ACTIVITY 25 | Combining sentences

Combine the ideas into one sentence. You may change the word forms, but do not change or omit any ideas. There may be more than one answer. See Unit 1 for more information.

- 1. There is a meeting.  
The meeting is important.  
The meeting in on a calendar.  
The calendar is Linh’s.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Carlos rides a bike to work.  
The bike belongs to Carlos.  
Carlos rides the bike every day.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. I have friends.  
These friends are new.  
These friends are in my English class.  
\_\_\_\_\_



WRITING

ACTIVITY 26 | Writing a paragraph

Write an original paragraph. Follow the instructions.

- Answer the questions in the chart below. Use complete sentences or notes.
- Use at least two vocabulary words or phrases from the unit.
- Copy your sentences into paragraph form on a separate piece of paper. Underline vocabulary from the unit.
- Give your paragraph a title.

Topic Sentence	<p>1. Who is the most interesting person you know? (This is your topic sentence.)</p> <p><u>The most interesting person I know is</u></p>
Body	<p>2. Why is this person interesting? List three reasons. Give an example to support each reason. Use adjectives in your descriptions. (These are your supporting sentences.)</p> <p>Reason 1: _____</p> <p>Example 1: _____</p> <p>Reason 2: _____</p> <p>Example 2: _____</p> <p>Reason 3: _____</p> <p>Example 3: _____</p>
Concluding Sentence	<p>3. Write a concluding sentence that gives information similar to the information in your topic sentence. Use an adjective other than <i>interesting</i>.</p> <p>_____</p>

Editing

After you finish writing, check your work for errors. Use the checklist below to help you.

- ☐ The paragraph has a title.
- ☐ I wrote a topic sentence and a concluding sentence. They are connected in meaning.
- ☐ I indented the first line of the paragraph.
- ☐ My supporting sentences are related to the topic.
- ☐ I used adjectives in my descriptions.
- ☐ I used subject and object pronouns to add variety.
- ☐ I used possessive adjectives to show ownership.

ACTIVITY 27 | Peer Editing

Exchange books with a partner and look at Activity 26. Read your partner’s paragraph. Then use Peer Editing Form 2 in the *Writer’s Handbook* to help you comment on your partner’s paragraph.

Additional Topics for Writing

Choose one or more of the topics to write about. Follow your teacher’s directions.

- TOPIC 1:** Review your Freewrite response for this unit. Who are you a fan of? Why do you like this person?
- TOPIC 2:** What are the qualities of a good friend? Why are these qualities important for a good friend to have?
- TOPIC 3:** Write about your phone, computer, or other electronic device. How often do you use it? What do you use it for? Do you like it? Why or why not?
- TOPIC 4:** Write about your favorite kind of entertainment. Why do you like this entertainment? How do you feel when you experience it?
- TOPIC 5:** Write about something you do not like. What is it? Give three reasons why you do not like it. Provide examples to support your reasons.

TEST PREP

You should spend about 25 minutes on this task. Write a paragraph with six to ten sentences.

TIP

Before you start to write, read the question carefully. Then write a strong topic sentence that answers the question. Use words from the question in your topic sentence. The rest of the paragraph should explain or give reasons to support your topic sentence.

*Some people believe that success in life comes from taking risks or chances. Others believe that success results from careful planning. In your opinion, what does success come from? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.*

Remember to indent the first line of your paragraph. Include a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence. Check your work for correct use of pronouns and adjectives.