

University of Tikrit
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Sentence 1

Academic Writing

First year

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1) What is a sentence?

In academic writing, the sentence is the basic building block of a paragraph. A well-written paragraph consists of clear and well-organized sentences that work together to express one main idea. Each sentence has a specific role, such as introducing the topic, supporting the main idea with explanations or examples or concluding the paragraph. Understanding how to write effective sentences help students develop coherent and meaningful paragraphs and improve the overall quality of academic writing.

A sentence is a group of words expressing a complete thought, typically starting with a capital letter and ending with punctuation (period, question mark, exclamation point). It usually contains a subject (who/what it's about) and a predicate (what the subject does or is), forming a grammatically complete unit that can make a statement, ask a question, give a command, or exclaim.

A complete sentence in English needs two words a subject (a noun or pronoun) and a predicate (a verb) (She sits).

Types of Sentences by Function

- **Declarative:** Makes a statement or expresses an opinion, ending with a period (e.g., "The cat is sleeping.").
- **Imperative:** Issues a command, request, or instruction, ending with a period or exclamation point (e.g., "Please close the door.>").
- **Interrogative:** Asks a direct question, ending with a question mark (e.g., "Where are you going?").
- **Exclamatory:** Expresses strong emotion or surprise, ending with an exclamation point (e.g., "That was an amazing game!").

Types of Sentences by Structure

- **Simple:** Contains one independent clause (e.g., "She likes pizza.>").
- **Compound:** Contains two or more independent clauses joined by a comma and coordinating conjunction or a semicolon (e.g., "She likes pizza, and he likes pasta.>").
- **Complex:** Contains one independent clause and at least one dependent (subordinate) clause (e.g., "Because it was raining, we stayed inside.>").
- **Compound-Complex:** Contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause (e.g., "Although it was raining, we went to the park, and we had a great time.>").

Groups of words that do not make complete sentences are called phrase. Sentences in paragraph start with a capital letter, end with a period(.) question mark(?) or exclamation point.

EX. My sister works in a shop.
Are more women working after college?
I will never work in a restaurant again!

2) What is a Paragraph?

A **paragraph** is a group of sentences with closely related ideas. We use paragraphs to break long texts into shorter groups of ideas, to make reading and comprehension easier. We also use paragraphs to organize the ideas in a text, grouping related ideas into sets, and organizing sets of ideas into be logical sequences. Every sentence in a strong paragraph is about the same topic. All of the sentences explain the writer's main idea about that topic . When the writer wants to write about anew main idea, he begins a new paragraph.

A **paragraph** can give information, tell an opinion, explain something, or even tell a short story. The sentence are arranged logically, so the reader can easily understand what the writer wants to say.

Types of Paragraphs

There are four primary types of paragraphs—descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive/argumentative—defined by their purpose to paint a picture, tell a story, explain a concept, or convince a reader, respectively. Other specialized types include process analysis, compare and contrast, and cause and effect.

Core Paragraph Types

Descriptive Paragraphs: Use sensory details (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) to paint a vivid picture of a person, place, or object. describes a person, place, thing, or feeling.

What is it like?

Ex. The park is very beautiful. The green trees and colorful flowers make it peaceful

Narrative Paragraphs: Tell a story or relate a sequence of events in chronological order. They often include a character, setting, and plot. or describes events in time order.

Focus: What happened?

EX. Yesterday, I went to school early. I met my friends, and we prepared for the exam together.

Expository Paragraphs: Explain, define, or inform the reader about a specific topic using facts, examples, and statistics. or gives information.

Focus: How or why, something happens.

Ex. Learning English is important because it helps people communicate around the world.

Persuasive/Argumentative Paragraphs: Aim to convince the reader to adopt a specific viewpoint or take action, using logic, evidence, and reasoning.

Focus: What should the reader think or do?

Ex. Students should read every day because reading improves vocabulary and thinking skills.

Other Specialized Paragraph Types

- **Process/Procedural Paragraphs:** Explain a process, often in a step-by-step manner.
- **Compare and Contrast Paragraphs:** Highlight similarities and differences between two or more subjects.
- **Cause and Effect Paragraphs:** Explain the reasons for an event and the resulting consequences.
- **Classification Paragraphs:** Categorize items into groups based on shared characteristics.

Paragraphs by Position in an Essay

- **Introductory Paragraphs:** Introduce the topic and the main argument (thesis).

Body Paragraphs: Develop, explain, and support the thesis statement

In academic writing a paragraph has a **(topic sentence) and (supporting sentences)**.

A) Topic sentences: A good topic sentence should include either of the following
1)**clear topic:**

weak: It's important to have friends, and also to do well in school.

strong: I don't think I will ever have a better friend than Ali.

2)**an opinion or idea about the topic:**

weak: I have been studying karate.

strong: Studying karate has given me strength and self- confidence.

A good topic sentence should not be:

1)too abroad (too much to write about)

weak: Australia is an interesting country.

strong: On my visit to Australia, I saw many unusual animals.

2)too narrow (not enough to write about is just a fact)

weak: School starts at 8:30

strong: Getting ready for school in the morning is more difficult than any of my classes.

The topic sentence is usually the first or last sentence, but it can be any sentence in the paragraph.

3)Process Writing:

It means writing in several stages (steps. Before you begin to write you should get some ideas, your teacher may ask you to read a classmate's paper and answer some questions about it. This is because you can learn a lot by reading your classmate's assignment. Your teacher may ask you to write another draft. This is because you can make your paper better by making some change. Before you hand in your paper for grade, you should check it carefully, read it aloud. Does it sound natural? Did you the topic sentence is usually the first or last sentence, but it can be any sentence in the paragraph forget any words/Did you remember to write the heading correctly? Does your paper look neat? Remember to give your teacher your best effort