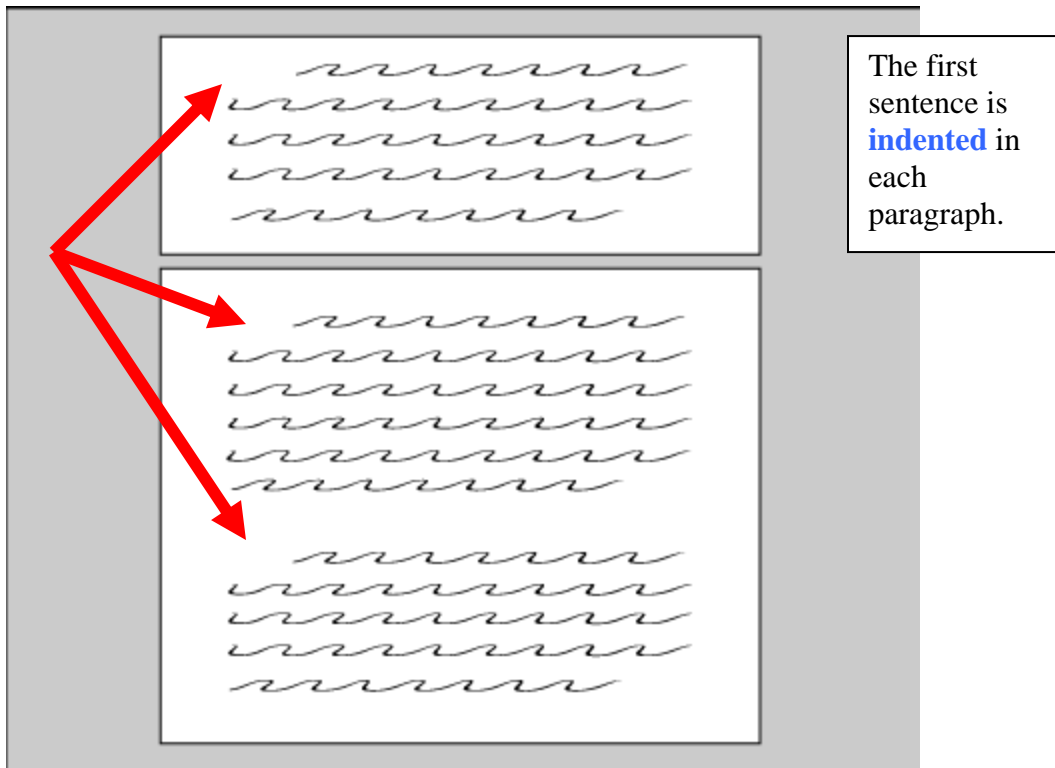


Writing a paragraph

How a paragraph Looks

A paragraph is a group of sentences that are related to **one specific topic**. Everything in the paragraph is about this topic.

To begin a paragraph, we **indent the first sentence**.



Each sentence that follows in the paragraph continues after the first sentence. **Do not begin a new sentence on a different line**. Just keep writing until you are finished talking about this topic. When you finish writing about the topic, you begin a new paragraph and indent the first sentence.

The size of a typical paragraph is **about 8 – 10 sentences long**.

The Topic Sentence: What is your paragraph about?

Another important thing to remember is that all of the sentences in the paragraph need to be related to one topic. **The first sentence** should tell the reader **what the paragraph is about**. This is called the **“topic sentence.”**

There are several things my classmate Sukh and I have in common about our perfect job. We both would like to work with people. We both enjoy learning new things. We do not want to work at night. Maybe we will both find the perfect job in our future!

When I read the first sentence, I know that this paragraph is going to talk about **“Sukh” and “me”**. It is also about what we have **in common for our perfect job**.

The Supporting Sentences: What examples can you provide?

After you tell us what the paragraph is about, you need to provide support (or examples). These are called the “supporting sentences.” For most paragraphs, three or four supporting sentences are enough.

There are several things my classmate Sukh and I have in common about our perfect job. **(1) We both would like to work with people. (2) We both enjoy learning new things. (3) We do not want to work at night. Maybe we will both find the perfect job in our future!**

By adding “**signal words**” for your readers, they can follow along even more easily.

There are several things my classmate Sukh and I have in common about our perfect job. **First**, we both would like to work with people. (1) **Second**, we both enjoy learning new things. **Third**, we do not want to work at night. Maybe we will both find the perfect job in our future!

Examples of signal words include the following:

first

One way (*reason, example*) is that

second

A second way (*reason, example*) is that

third

A third way (*reason, example*) is that

Adding Detail: Show me!

To make your writing more interesting and believable, it is also helpful to add specific examples to explain more.

There are several things my classmate Sukh and I have in common about our perfect job. **First**, we both would like to work with people. (Explain. Give an example here.) **Second**, we both enjoy learning new things. (Explain. What are examples of new things you can learn on your job?) **Third**, we do not want to work at night. (Why? Explain) Maybe we will both find the perfect job in our future!



The Conclusion: A good ending

An important part of a paragraph but often forgotten is the ending. Think of it like a hamburger. If you don't have the bottom bun, the hamburger will not stay together. The last sentence in your paragraph should remind the reader what you have been talking about. It is the last thought the reader will have about your topic. Often people use their first sentence and write it in a new way.

There are several things my classmate Sukh and I have in common about our perfect job. First, we both would like to work with people. (Explain. Give an example here.) Second, we both enjoy learning new things. (Explain. What are examples of new things you can learn on your job?) Third, we do not want to work at night. (Why? Explain) **Maybe we will both find the perfect job in our future!**