

Paragraphs

What are paragraphs?

Paragraphs are a group of sentences written about the same idea or topic. They are used to show when a writer has **changed time, place, idea, person, thought or argument**. If a writer changes one of these, a new paragraph will start.

Why use paragraphs?

Paragraphs make clear the organisation of a piece of writing, making it easier to read and understand. The writer assists the reader by 'chunking' related thoughts or ideas.

Paragraphs in fiction look like this...

George the Giant Tortoise



George was a giant tortoise. He belonged to a lovely owner called Oliver, who looked after him very well, although before that he had belonged to Oliver's Grandpa Jack for many years. He was quite a rare type of tortoise and that made him very special.

Some people said George was spoilt but he didn't ask for much really. All he liked to eat was grass and hay, with a few dandelions now and then, or the occasional lettuce. He did have his own shed, that Grandpa Jack had made when he was alive, which even had its own heating! Most of the time, George lived in his shed but he loved to wander lazily around the garden sometimes when Oliver was playing on the lawn.

George thought that Oliver was the best owner any tortoise could wish for. Well, maybe, joint-first in a best-tortoise-owner competition, as Grandpa Jack had been an extremely kind, caring owner too. In fact, George was very keen to show how grateful he was to his owner and to prove that he was the best pet that Oliver could wish for:

As summer approached, the perfect opportunity came for George: the annual village fair would be holding the 'Perfect Pet Competition'. He was delighted. He would show everyone what a great pet he was and Oliver would be so proud. However, when Oliver read the leaflet aloud, George was devastated. 'Open to dogs, cats, rabbits and hamsters. No tortoises allowed'.

'Just furry creatures?' thought George. 'How unfair!' So he decided he wasn't going to let those rules stop him. With the village fair only a week away, the giant tortoise began to dig a hole behind his shed. Slowly, the hole became bigger and closer to the fence at the back of the garden. Eventually, the hole became a tunnel but each night, George would return to his shed before anyone noticed he was gone.

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 5

How many paragraphs?

Writers use as many paragraphs as they need to make their writing clear. Some paragraphs have a particular role, such as the introduction or conclusion.

How long are paragraphs?

There is no set length to a paragraph. It is something the writer decides, as a way of organising and structuring the writing. Writers often use shorter paragraphs in non-fiction writing (due to using lots of different facts) and longer in fiction writing (due to using more descriptive language).

Paragraphs in non-fiction look like this...

Paragraph 2 Paragraph 1

Paragraph 5 Paragraph 6

INVASION OF BRITAIN

The Celts
From about 750 BC to 12 BC, the Celts were the most powerful people in the Britain. The Celts lived in tribes and they spoke a similar language. The word 'Celt' comes from the Greek word 'kelos', meaning barbarian.

The Invasion
In August 55 BC the Roman general, Julius Caesar, invaded Britain. He took two legions of men with him, there were 5,000 men in one legion. After many battles with the Celts in south-east England he left, eager to get back to Rome.

The next summer (54 BC) Caesar came back to Britain and landed in Kent. This time he brought 30,000 soldiers plus 2,000 men on horses (cavalrymen). The Celts lost many battles and agreed to give some of their valuables to the Romans if they left them alone.

Almost 100 years later Emperor Claudius had his turn at invading Britain. He sent 50,000 soldiers. Some of the battles lasted for two whole days! Some Celts agreed to obey Roman laws and pay taxes, but others fought on. The Romans were still fighting in Yorkshire and other parts of Northern Britain forty years later. They never actually gained full control of Britain. Colchester (Camulodunum) was the first Roman capital of Britain, which was later moved to London (Londinium).



Why did they invade?
The emperors were keen to extend their empire and therefore their power (and ability to collect more taxes). It is possible they wanted control of the land to access natural resources in the ground. Britain had many, including iron, lead, zinc, copper and silver. It may also be because the Celts in Britain helped the Celts from France who fled from the Romans, perhaps the Romans wanted revenge.

Hadrian's Wall
After the Romans invaded England, they needed to defend it. Scotland was not part of the Roman Empire and the tribes from Scotland (the Picts) would come down and attack. There was frequent fighting between the Romans and the Picts. In 122 AD, Emperor Hadrian of the Roman Empire decided that a wall should be built to keep the Picts out. Parts of the wall can still be seen today, some of it many kilometres south of the modern Scottish border. It is the most popular tourist attraction in Northern England.

Why did they leave?
The Romans stayed in Britain from 43 AD and left in 410 AD. Over that time, they brought over many new ideas and inventions which you can see on the next page. The Romans eventually had to leave because Italy was under attack by strong tribes. Every soldier was needed to fight so the Romans living in Britain had to go and help.

Paragraph 3 Paragraph 4

Paragraph 7