

Writing A Descriptive Paragraph

A paragraph is a group of sentences dealing with a certain topic.

The parts of a paragraph

- I. **The topic sentence** introduces the main idea of the paragraph. It tells the reader what the paragraph will be about.
- II. **The supporting details** make up the body of the paragraph. You should develop and support the main idea of the paragraph by giving **facts, details and examples** . All of the supporting details in the paragraph **MUST** relate to the topic sentence. Do Not include irrelevant details.
- III. **The closing sentence** is the last sentence in a paragraph. It repeats the main idea of your paragraph in other words.

A Descriptive Paragraph describes people, animals or things.

Read the following example of a **descriptive paragraph**.

The Camel

Some people might say that the camel is an ugly creature, but in fact, it is a remarkable animal. It has a floppy hump in the middle of its back, big teeth, a strong smell, and long legs as thin as sticks. Its natural habitat is the desert, where there is little water and a lot of hot sand. Yet the camel can survive these difficult conditions because it is built for it. It can exist for long periods on the fat stored in its hump and by eating the thorny plants of the desert; it has pads on its feet, knees and chest so that it can endure the hot sand whether it is standing or sitting. Don't be deceived by appearances. You may think the camel ugly, but its qualities go far beyond its looks.

Descriptive paragraphs usually have the following characteristics (מאפיינים) in common:

- ✓ The first sentence introduces the topic.
- ✓ The last sentence gives general information based on what has been written before.
- ✓ They use rich language and a lot of adjectives.
- ✓ They have comparisons to help describe the topic.
- ✓ They use language that appeals to the senses (describe what the object looks like, sounds like, feels like, smells like etc.)
- ✓ The tense used is mostly the PRESENT SIMPLE.



A. Look at the paragraph about the camel again and answer the following questions:

1. Copy the topic sentence of the paragraph.

2. Copy the closing sentence of the paragraph.

3. Find at least 4 adjectives in the paragraph.

4. Find two sentences that appeal to the senses.

5. Find at least 3 examples of verbs in the Present Simple.

B. Do exercise C on page 41 in NAVIGATOR practice book.

Guidelines for Writing a Paragraph

- ✓ Think and choose what you are going to write about.
- ✓ Get your ideas in note form.
- ✓ Collect information and keep it. (from encyclopedias, Internet, etc.)
To find information about animals, have a look at these sites for examples.
<http://kids.yahoo.com/animals>
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/>
- ✓ Write the paragraph in three parts:
 - a topic sentence
 - supporting details
 - a closing sentence
- ✓ Keep to the topic.
- ✓ Make sure that the topic is clear.
- ✓ Give the paragraph a title.
- ✓ Include at least 5 adjectives.
- ✓ Use the Present Simple to describe what the topic looks like, feels like, smells like etc. Use other grammatical structures correctly.
- ✓ Check capitalization, spelling and punctuation.
- ✓ Attach all the drafts.
- ✓ Attach all the resources of information you used.
- ✓ Reread the paragraph and check if you want to change anything.
- ✓ Type the paragraph.

Writing Task – Write a Descriptive Paragraph

In pairs, write a descriptive paragraph. Choose ONE of the following topics:

- ✓ Write a description of someone in your family.
- ✓ Write a description of an animal of your choice.

Write in your own words!

Write at least 60 words.

Use the guidelines for writing a paragraph and the checklist to help you.

All your drafts should be done in class and handed in to your teacher.

Your final piece of writing must be typed.

CHECKLIST FOR WRITING A DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH	✓
1. I wrote a topic sentence.	
2. I gave supporting details about the topic.	
3. I wrote a closing sentence.	
4. I kept to the topic.	
5. I made sure that the topic is clear.	
6. I gave the paragraph a title.	
7. I used my own words.	
8. I wrote at least 60 words.	
9. I included at least 5 adjectives.	
10. I used correct grammatical structures.	
11. I checked capitalization, spelling and punctuation	
12. I attached the drafts.	
13. I attached all the sources of information I used.	
14. I reread my paragraph and checked if I wanted to change anything	
13. I typed my paragraph.	

RUBIC FOR A DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

							Total
Content	Description is clear, interesting and vivid.	30	Description is quite clear, interesting and vivid.	22	Description is not clear, interesting or vivid.	15	
Organization	* The paragraph contains: 1. a title 2. a topic sentence 3. supporting details. 4.a closing sentence * Drafts and sources are included.	15	The paragraph contains only 3 parts	12	The paragraph contains less than 3 parts	8	
Vocabulary	* Pupil used their own words *At least 5 adjectives are used.	15	3 adjectives only	12	less than 3 adjectives	8	
Language	Correct usage of grammatical structures	30	some mistakes	22	many mistakes	15	
Mechanics: capitalization, spelling, punctuation	few mistakes	10	some mistakes	7	many mistakes	3	