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The structure of Paragraph	عنوان المحاضرة باللغة الانكليزية
Academic Writing from Paragraph to Essay	المراجع والمصادر
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المحتوى...

The Second Lecture

The Structure of a Paragraph

In this lecture, you will learn ...

- the definition of a paragraph.
- the parts of a paragraph,
- how to identify and write topic sentences.

As you learned in the last lecture, a paragraph is a group of sentences about a single *topic*. Together, the sentences of the paragraph explain the writer's main *idea*, (most important idea) about the topic. In academic writing, a paragraph is often between five and ten sentences long, but it can be longer or shorter, depending on the topic. The first sentence of a paragraph is usually indented (moved in) a few spaces.

1- Understanding a paragraph

Before we start, let's first read the passage on page 11.

- *Now, answer these questions*
 - a. What is the topic of this paragraph?
 - b. What is the main idea about the topic?
 - c. What ideas help explain the main idea?

2- Paragraph Organization

- **What makes a paragraph?**

A paragraph has three basic parts:

1- The topic sentence. This is the main idea of the paragraph. It is usually the first sentence of the paragraph, and it is the most general sentence of the paragraph.

2. The supporting sentences. These are sentences that talk about or explain the topic sentence. These are more detailed ideas that follow the topic sentence.

3. The concluding sentence. This may be found as the last sentence of a paragraph. It can finish a paragraph by repeating the main idea or just giving a final comment about the topic.

- Now, read the paragraph about Switzerland in exercise 1 on page 11 again. Circle the topic sentence, put one line under the supporting sentences, and put two lines under the concluding sentence.

3- The topic and the main idea

The topic sentence usually:

- comes first in a paragraph.
- gives the writer's main idea or opinion about the topic and helps the reader understand what the paragraph is going to talk about.

Let's now practice. Circle the topic of the sentence. Underline the main idea about the topic.

- a. Switzerland is a very interesting country to visit.
- b. Dogs make excellent pets
- c. Football is my favorite sport because it is exciting to watch.
- d. One of the most valuable tools for students is the computer.
- e. My sister and I have very different personalities.
- f. Summer is the best time to travel in my country.
- g. My hometown is a friendly place to live.

Now, let's do the exercises on page 14.

