

Paragraphs 1: Planning your writing

See the handout on **Paragraphs** if you need help to complete this exercise.

Getting the order right

The sentences in the following passage are in no particular order. Read the passage, then number the boxes at the end of the sentences to show what you think is the best order. Write the sentences out below.

First, we looked at the locks. It was a long day, but I enjoyed finding out about how boat people used to live. After lunch, we went round the museum. We went to find out about canals and narrow boats. We looked inside a narrow boat and saw the tiny kitchen, the beds and the living area. Last week, we went to the waterways museum at Stoke Bartlett. Afterwards, we had some worksheets to fill in.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Paragraphs 2: Writing in paragraphs

See the handout on **Paragraphs** if you need help to complete this exercise.

Getting into groups

The following report of a school trip needs some structure to make it easier to follow. Read the sentences. Then re-read them and add brackets to group sentences together. Try to make 3 or 4 groups, or paragraphs. Now think of a title or key word for each group. Write your titles on the scroll.

(We went to the waterways museum at Stoke Bartlett.
We went to find out about canals and narrow boats.)

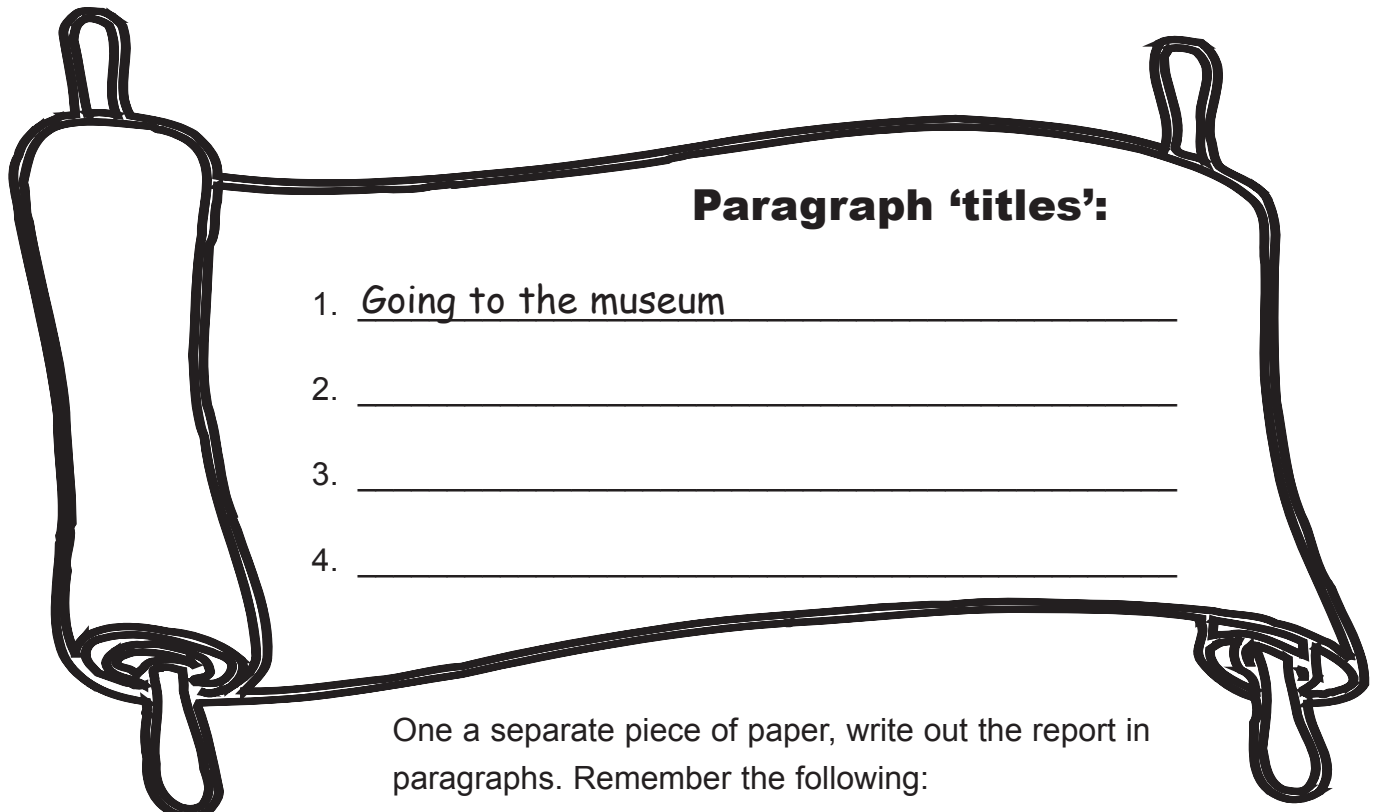
We looked at the locks.

The museum keeper showed us how to use a piece of metal called a key to open the sluice gates and let the water through.

We went round the museum.

We looked inside a narrow boat and saw the tiny kitchen, the beds and the living area. Afterwards, we had some worksheets to fill in.

It was a long day, but I enjoyed finding out about how boat people used to live.



Paragraph 'titles':

1. Going to the museum
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

On a separate piece of paper, write out the report in paragraphs. Remember the following:

- Take a new line for each new paragraph.
- Bring the first line of each paragraph in a little from the margin.

Paragraphs 3: Paragraph prompts

See the handout on **Paragraphs** if you need help to complete this exercise.

Linking paragraphs

For a piece of writing to flow and be easy to read, paragraphs often need to be started and connected to one another with appropriate words or phrases. Read the paragraph openings or 'prompts' in the box and use them to complete the sentences below.

Later that night,	At the beginning	First,	After lunch,	
	On Saturday,	Just then	Meanwhile	When
The following morning	By the time	It was several weeks	Soon afterwards,	

1. Later that night, _____ he was watching the evening news on television when he heard a strange, howling sound.
2. _____ Alice and Krishma left the dining room quickly and raced off to the far side of the school field.
3. _____ mum had finished her phone call, she came upstairs to my room.
4. _____ it was easy. Josh was on his best behaviour.
5. _____ in his shop, Mr Shepherd went on serving his customers.
6. _____ they got back home, all the fuss had died down.
7. _____ the eggs hatched and we could hear the baby birds constantly begging for food.
8. _____ before the cat ventured outside into the garden.

Now make up opening sentences for paragraphs starting with the prompts left over.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Paragraphs 4: Paragraphing speech

Spotting speech breaks

Direct speech is set out in paragraphs, with a new line for each new speaker. Read the passage below, which contains dialogue between three characters. Draw lines to show where a new line should start for each speaker. Write out the passage correctly.

The changing room was quiet. Suddenly, the door burst open and in charged Harry. 'Have you heard?' he shouted. / 'Heard what?' chorused Martin and Sanjay, looking surprised. 'The new head's talking about raising money for an all-weather pitch,' Harry continued. 'He's really keen on football.' 'Wow!' said Sanjay. 'That would be cool.' 'Brilliant!' agreed Martin.

Writing direct speech

Read the conversation in the speech bubbles. Write it out as four lines of direct speech.

What did you do over half-term, Mary?

We had a brilliant time at my aunt's farm in Devon. What about you, Donna?

I didn't do anything very much. Tell me about Devon.

Well...helping with the lambing was the best fun. We had to bottle feed one of the lambs.

Compiled by Bridget Gibbs, consultant and former teacher