

Writing L2WLO2

Writing in Paragraphs

Learning Outcome 2: Separate topics into individual paragraphs which together form a text of at least 150 words

EXPLORING WRITTEN ENGLISH

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING Organizing Information Into Paragraphs

A paragraph is a group of sentences about one topic or idea. If you write about more than one topic or idea in a paragraph, it's more difficult to communicate one message in that paragraph.

When you are planning a text, make a list of all your ideas for it. Try to write about one idea or topic in each paragraph. Make a numbered list of the paragraphs and the idea or topic in each one.

A Read the text. Which two main ideas or topics does it mention?

Chicago, USA

Chicago is a very interesting city. Europeans started to arrive there at the end of the eighteenth century. By 1840, more than 6,000 people were living in Chicago. The people built a railroad and lots of buildings in the city. Large numbers of people from Europe and all over the world came to live in Chicago in the nineteenth century because there were lots of jobs there. Today, there are lots of very tall buildings in Chicago, like the famous Willis Tower. I love all the interesting buildings in the city and I also love all the different types of food that you can eat there. Of course, there is Chicago pizza, but there is also excellent Mexican, Polish and Caribbean food in the city. If the weather is good, it's really nice to go on a boat trip on the Chicago River or on Lake Michigan.

B Read the text in exercise A again. Mark the place in the text where the writer should start a new paragraph.

EDITING PRACTICE Deciding on the Order of Paragraphs

When you are deciding what order to put your paragraphs in, you can choose one of these options:

1. putting the least important idea or topic first and the most important idea or topic last
2. organizing the paragraphs in time order from the first thing that happened to the last thing
3. first giving different types of facts about something and then giving your opinion about it.

