

Guided Reading Activity Booklet



Name.....

Paragraph Perfection

Paragraphs are a group of sentences. They are used in writing to introduce new sections of a story, characters or pieces of information.

Paragraphs help readers to enjoy what has been written because they break text up into easy-to-read sections.

Here are some sentences about Wilma the witch. Some tell you about how she looks, some about her home and some about her hobbies.

Arrange the sentences in three paragraphs starting with:

The way she looks,
then where she lives
and finally, her hobbies.

Write your paragraphs down on the next page.

Wilma is tall and thin.

There is no bed in Wilma's cave because she never goes to sleep.

Wilma has two sly green eyes at the front of her head and one bright red eye at the back.

Wilma lives in a cave on the edge of the forest.



At night, she likes to fly through the sky on her long, twisted broomstick.

Her cave is dark, gloomy and full of cobwebs.

Wilma spends her days casting wicked spells on fairies and elves.

She has straggly black hair, a long crooked nose and wrinkly green skin.

Paragraphs in Non-fiction

Paragraphs in non-fiction are usually used to introduce a new piece of information. In these types of text, new paragraphs usually have a subheading. A subheading is a short title that tells the reader what information in the paragraph will be about.

The three subheadings below are from a non-fiction text about Roman times.

Clothing

Food and Drink

Going to School

The sentences in the table are from the same book.

Write the subheading you think each sentence belongs to in the space provided.

The first one has been done for you.

Sentence	Subheading
Poor people ate simple food such as bread and porridge.	<u>Food and Drink</u>
Men wrapped a cloak called a toga around them, and held it in place at the neck with a brooch.	
Children learnt to read from scrolls of papyrus, a paper made from reeds.	
Dinner was served in the triclinium and started at 4pm.	
The lessons began at dawn and finished early in the afternoon.	
Both men and women wore leather sandals.	

Subordinate Clauses

Subordinate clauses are used to add more information to sentences.

Example:

Subordinate Clause *Main Clause*
Although I was hungry, I did not eat my dinner.

The main clause still makes sense without the subordinate clause.

When we add a subordinate clause, we need to separate it from the main clause by adding a comma or commas.

Example:

Mrs Patel, our next door neighbour, kindly made me a cup of tea.

Read the sentences below and put a comma on each side of the subordinate clauses.

1. Pebble the beautiful black horse ran swiftly up the hill.
2. Paris the capital city of France is a beautiful place to visit.
3. A terrifying monster covered in purple spikes chased me through the woods.
4. My sister who is a very good cook helped me to bake a cake.
5. The bicycle which was very rusty had been thrown into the skip.
6. The puppy which was only two days old snuggled closely to its mummy.
7. Janet the tallest girl in the class put the star on top of the Christmas tree.
8. The flowers which had bloomed in spring began to fade as time went on.

Add a subordinate clause

Copy the sentences below adding a subordinate clause from the box at the bottom of the page.

Penny, (*add a subordinate clause*), wanted to ski down the mountain.

The castle wall, (*add a subordinate clause*), had begun to crumble.

The little kitten, (*add a subordinate clause*), stepped bravely out into the garden.

(*add a subordinate clause*), the man could not lift the heavy rock.

who had never been outside before

who loved doing scary things

which was hundreds of years old

although he was very strong

Finding Key Facts

It is a very useful skill to be able to find the key facts you need when you are given a lot of information. If you can do this, you will be able to answer questions quickly and accurately.

Example: Millie needs to answer the following question: What do hedgehogs like to eat?

She has found the following paragraph of information about hedgehogs.

The hedgehog is a small, prickly animal. It has a coat of sharp, pointed prickles called spines. These spines protect the hedgehog. For such a small creature the hedgehog has strong jaws and sharp teeth. Its favourite foods are insects, worms and snails.

Millie has underlined the words: insects, worms and snails

She can now answer the question

Millie's answer:

Hedgehogs like to eat insects, worms and snails.

Can you answer the questions below and on the next page about the Romans? Remember to read the text and underline the key information that you will need.

What did the first Roman village eventually become?

The first Romans lived in a small, hillside village in the middle of Italy. Over many hundreds of years, the village grew into a great and powerful city with a strong army. In time, this army swept across Europe and North Africa and into Asia. The lands they ruled over became known as the Roman Empire.

Answer:

What did the Romans build in the countries they conquered?

By about 2,000 years ago, the Roman Empire was at its most powerful and had spread across many lands. At this time the Romans had the best and strongest army in the world.

Whenever they conquered a new country, the Romans built their own forts, roads, bridges and even towns. These were much the same throughout the whole Empire. Apart from the weather, living in a Roman town in the north of France was just like living in one in Egypt.

Answer:

How was water supplied to Roman towns?

The streets of a Roman town were always laid out in neat, straight lines that formed squares. All of the important public buildings were grouped together in the forum or the city centre. Special channels called aqueducts supplied water. The town was surrounded by a high wall with huge gates. Soldiers patrolled the wall day and night.

The busiest part of any Roman town was the forum. Market traders would set up their stalls here and local people would come to find out the latest news and gossip.

Answer:

Check for Sense

When you do a piece of writing, it is important that you reread your writing to make sure that it makes sense.

The person who has written the sentences below has forgotten to complete this check. Can you sort out their errors by rewriting the sentences so that they make sense? The first one has been done for you.

On Saturday morning I took my pet dog for a walk long along the beach sandy. When we got back, I was hungry very so I delicious hamburger.

On Saturday morning I took my pet dog for a long walk along the sandy beach. When I got back, I was hungry so I ate a delicious hamburger.

Later that day I went to play football my best friend. I was very proud of myself because scored I three goals.

At teatime my mum and dad cooked my food favourite, shepherds pie. I was so full that I eat couldn't all pudding my.

In evening, my sister and I had a game of Snakes and Ladders and then we watched TV. Finally, I went to bed and book my read before drifting off to sleep.

Statement, question or command?

A **statement** is a sentence that simply tells the reader something.

Example: The kettle is boiling.

A **question** is a sentence that asks the reader something - it always ends with a question mark.

Example: How many candles are on the cake?

A **command** is a sentence in which someone is being told to do something.

Commands usually start with a verb.

Example: Spread the butter on the toast.

Read each sentence in the table below. Can you tick the right box to show whether it is a statement, question or command? To make it a little more tricky, there are no question marks at the end of the question sentences.

	statement	question	command
Where do chickens lay their eggs.			
The farmer milked his cows.			
Put you hat and scarf on.			
Help Jenny to wash the pots.			
Who ate all the chocolate cake.			