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Peeling Paragraphs - Year 4

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BUILD A POWERFUL PARAGRAPH

1

TOPIC SENTENCE

State the paragraph's main idea.



2

SUPPORTING DETAILS

Add facts, examples, evidence or events.



3

EXPLAIN & ELABORATE

Show how each detail develops the main idea.



4

FINISH OR CONCLUDE

Finish the idea or connect to what comes next.



INFORMATIVE:

event with facts



PERSUASIVE:

start a point of view



IMAGINATIVE:

develop an event with vivid detail

PEEL & TEEL TOOLKIT

Preview

PEEL



P — POINT

State your point of view.



E — EVIDENCE

Add a fact, example or reason.



E — EXPLAIN

Show how the evidence supports your point.



L — LINK

Connect back to the point or next idea.

TEEL



T — TOPIC

State the paragraph's topic.



E — EVIDENCE

Add a fact, example or reason.



E — EXPLAIN

Show how the evidence supports the topic.



L — LINK

Connect back to the topic or next idea.

EVIDENCE STARTERS



For example ...



One reason is ...



The evidence shows ...



A useful detail is ...

LINKING STARTERS



Therefore ...



As a result, ...



Overall, ...



This shows that ...



PARAGRAPH DETECTIVE – CARDS 1-6



1 – INFORMATIVE

Explain how bees help a garden. Include two facts.



4 – TOPIC SENTENCE

Write a strong topic sentence about recycling at school.



2 – PERSUASIVE

Convince your class to read outdoors once a week. Use P.E.E.L.



5 – SUPPORTING DETAIL

Add one fact to support: Trees make playgrounds better.



3 – IMAGINATIVE

Complete: The parcel rattled as I lifted it from the ground. I heard ...



6 – LINKING SENTENCE

Finish a paragraph about saving water.



Read a card. Plan aloud. Share your strongest sentence.

7 — INFORMATIVE

Explain why sleep helps students learn.



8 — PERSUASIVE

Convince a friend to join the school library.



9 — IMAGINATIVE

Write about a sudden blackout during dinner.



10 — ORDER IT

Put four mixed sentence strips into a logical paragraph.



11 — IMPROVE IT

Rewrite: Do are good.
Make the topic sentence specific.



12 — EDIT IT

Find one spelling, one punctuation and one cohesion change.



1

Bees carry pollen from flower to flower as they collect nectar.

2

This movement of pollen helps many plants grow fruit and seeds.

3

Bees are essential helpers in a healthy garden.

4

Overall, bees support both flowering plants and the food we grow.

5

Every class should have one outdoor reading lesson each week.

6

Fresh air and natural light can make reading feel calm and enjoyable.

7

A weekly outdoor lesson would also give students a refreshing change of setting.

8

Therefore, outdoor reading would be a valuable part of our timetable.

9

The parcel trembled in my hands as I carried it inside.

10

A soft ticking sound grew louder beneath the brown paper.

11

I eased back one corner and a silver light spilled across the floor.

12

Whatever was inside, I knew the afternoon had changed completely.

Cut out the cards. Sort by paragraph type. Then arrange each paragraph in a logical order.

PARAGRAPH BUILDER MATCH-UP – SORTING MATS

INFORMATIVE

Explains with facts

PERSUASIVE

Supports a point of view

IMAGINATIVE

Develops an event

Informative: _____

Persuasive: _____

Imaginative: _____

Explain each choice

RECORD YOUR ORDER

TEACHER ANSWER KEY – CUT OFF BEFORE USE

Informative: 3, 6, 11

Persuasive: 5, 7, 8

Imaginative: 9, 10, 11, 12



Name: _____

PARAGRAPH PARTS LAB



LABEL THE JOB

Write T for topic sentence, S for supporting detail, P for explanation and C for conclusion.



Preview

____ School gardens give students a practical place to learn.

____ First, learners can observe insects and plant growth close up.

____ This hands-on work helps them connect classroom ideas to real life.

____ For these reasons, a school garden turns lessons into real experiences.

PUT IT IN ORDER

Number the sentences 1-4 to build a logical paragraph.



Preview

____ As a result, regular sleep helps students arrive ready to learn.

____ During sleep, the brain organises new information from the day.

____ A good night's sleep supports learning.

____ It also restores energy for concentrating and solving problems.

STRENGTHEN THE TOPIC SENTENCE

Break: Gamers are not just for fun. They can also help students learn. The reader knows the paragraph's exact focus.



Preview

CHECK: one main idea • logical order • clear ending

Name: ANSWERS

PARAGRAPH PARTS LAB



LABEL THE JOB

P Preview



Write T for topic sentence, S for supporting detail, L for explanation and E for link.

T School gardens give students a practical place to learn.

S First, learners can observe insects and plant growth close up.

E This hands-on work helps them connect classroom ideas to real life.

L For these reasons, a school garden turns lessons into real experiences.

PUT IT IN ORDER

P Preview



Number the sentences 1-4 to build a logical paragraph.

4 As a result regular sleep helps students arrive ready to learn.

2 During sleep, the brain organises new information from the day.

1 A good night's sleep supports learning.

3 It also restores energy for concentrating and solving problems.

STRENGTHEN THE TOPIC SENTENCE

P Preview



Task: Gamers are good at teamwork and strategic thinking. So the reader knows the paragraph's exact focus.

Cooperative board games help players practise teamwork and strategic thinking.

CHECK: one main idea • logical order • clear ending

Name: _____



INFORMATIVE PARAGRAPH LAB

Topic: How bees help a garden

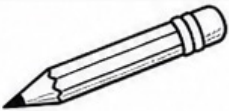


FACT BANK

Bees carry pollen between flowers as they collect nectar.
Pollination helps many plants produce fruit and seeds.
A bee may visit many flowers during one trip.
Gardens need pollinators to support healthy plant growth.

	TOPIC SENTENCE	Introduce the main idea.
	FACT 1	Choose a useful fact.
	EXPLAIN	How does this fact help the reader understand?
	FACT 2	Add another useful fact.
	VOCABULARY	pollen • pollination • nectar
	LINK OR CONCLUSION	Sum up why bees matter.

WRITE YOUR PARAGRAPH



CHECK: clear topic • accurate facts • explanation • logical order • conclusion

Name: **ANSWERS**



INFORMATIVE PARAGRAPH LAB

Topic: How bees help a garden

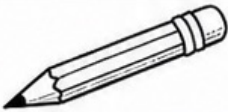


FACT BANK

Bees carry pollen between flowers as they collect nectar.
Pollination helps many plants produce fruit and seeds.
A bee may visit many flowers during one trip.
Gardens need pollinators to support healthy plant growth.

	TOPIC SENTENCE	Bees are important helpers in a healthy garden.
	FACT 1	Bees carry pollen between flowers as they collect nectar.
	EXPLAN	This pollination helps plants produce fruit and seeds.
	FACT 2	A bee may visit many flowers during one trip.
	VOCABULARY	pollen • pollination • nectar
	LINK OR CONCLUSION	Overall, gardens need bees to support healthy plant growth.

WRITE YOUR PARAGRAPH



Bees are important helpers in a healthy garden. As they collect nectar, bees carry pollen between flowers. This pollination helps many plants produce fruit and seeds. A bee may visit many flowers during one trip, spreading pollen as it goes. Overall, gardens need bees to support healthy plant growth.

CHECK: clear topic • accurate facts • explanation • logical order • conclusion

Name: _____

PERSUASIVE PEEL CHALLENGE



AIM: Every class should have one outdoor reading lesson each week.



- REASON BANK**
-  a calm change of setting
 -  fresh air and natural light
 -  space to discuss books together
 -  an enjoyable reading routine



P — POINT

State your point of view.

E — EVIDENCE

Choose a strong reason
to support your point.

E — EXPLAIN

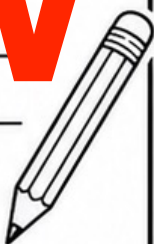
Show how the evidence
supports your point.

L — LINK

Connect back
to the point.

WRITE YOUR PEEL PARAGRAPH

Preview



CHECK: clear point • relevant evidence • explanation • linking sentence • correct punctuation

Name: **ANSWERS**

PERSUASIVE PEEL CHALLENGE



CLAIM: Every class should have one outdoor reading lesson each week.



- REASON BANK**
-  a calm change of setting
 -  fresh air and natural light
 -  space to discuss books together
 -  an enjoyable reading routine



P — POINT

State your point of view.

Every class should have one outdoor reading lesson each week.

E — EVIDENCE

Choose a strong reason (evidence).

Fresh air and natural light create a calm change of setting.

E — EXPLAIN

Show how the evidence supports your point.

This can make reading feel enjoyable and help students discuss books together.

L — LINK

Connect back to the point.

Therefore, outdoor reading would be a valuable weekly routine.

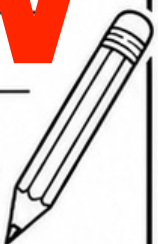
WRITE YOUR PEEL PARAGRAPH

Every class should have one outdoor reading lesson each week.

Fresh air and natural light create a calm change of setting.

This can make reading feel enjoyable and help students discuss books together.

Therefore, outdoor reading would be a valuable weekly routine.



CHECK: clear point • relevant evidence • explanation • linking sentence • correct punctuation

Name: _____

IMAGINATIVE PARAGRAPH JOURNEY



PROMPT: The mysterious parcel

Imagine a parcel appears at your door. Something inside moves.



OPENING OR TOPIC SENTENCE

Introduce the moment and the parcel.



EVENTS IN ORDER

First ...

Then ...

Suddenly ...



SENSORY DETAILS

What can the character see, hear and feel?



ENDING OR LINK

Close the moment or lead into what happens next.



WRITE YOUR PARAGRAPH



CHECK: focused event • logical order • vivid detail • varied sentences • clear ending

Name: ANSWERS

IMAGINATIVE PARAGRAPH JOURNEY



PROMPT: The mysterious parcel

Imagine a parcel appears at your door. Something inside moves.



OPENING OR TOPIC SENTENCE

Introduce the moment and the parcel.

The parcel trembled in my hands as I carried it inside.



EVENTS IN ORDER

First ...

Then ...

Suddenly ...

First, I heard a soft ticking beneath the paper.

Then, I eased back one corner.

Suddenly, silver light spilled across the floor.



SENSORY DETAILS

What can the character see, hear and feel?

rustling cardboard; cool silver glow; heart beating quickly



ENDING OR LINK

Close the moment or lead into what happens next.

Whatever was inside, I knew the afternoon had changed completely.



WRITE YOUR PARAGRAPH



The parcel trembled in my hands as I carried it inside. A soft ticking sound came from beneath the brown paper. My heart beat quickly as I eased back one corner. Suddenly, a silver light spilled across the floor. Whatever was inside, I knew the afternoon had changed completely.



CHECK: focused event • logical order • vivid detail • varied sentences • clear ending

Name: _____



COHESION & EDITING CLINIC



Repair each paragraph so the ideas connect and the sentences are correct.

A. REMOVE REPETITION

On Saturday our class planted seedlings. Our class dug holes. Our class watered the seedlings. The our class labeled the garden beds.

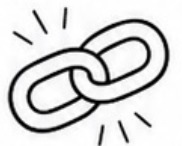


1. Circle the repeated words.
2. Replace at least two repetitions with a pronoun or a more specific noun.
3. Add or improve one linking phrase.
4. Correct the punctuation.

Preview

B. FIX THE FLOW

The storm cloud moved over the oval we packed our equipment quickly After that the rain began and everyone ran for cover



1. Separate the ideas into correct sentences.
2. Add capitals and punctuation.
3. Keep the events in a logical order.

Writer:

Preview



CHECK: pronouns • linking phrases • sentence boundaries • capitals • spelling • punctuation

Name: **ANSWERS**



COHESION & EDITING CLINIC



Pair each paragraph so the ideas connect and the sentences are correct.

A. REMOVE REPETITION

On Saturday our class planted seedlings. Our class dug holes. Our class watered the seedlings. Then our class labelled the garden beds.



1. Circle the repeated words.
2. Replace at least two repetitions with a pronoun or a more specific noun.
3. Add or improve one linking phrase.
4. Correct the punctuation.

On Saturday our class planted seedlings. We dug holes and carefully watered the young plants. Finally, the students labelled the garden beds.

B. FIX THE FLOW

The storm cloud moved over the oval we packed our equipment quickly After that the rain began and everyone ran for cover



1. Separate the ideas into correct sentences.
2. Add capitals and punctuation.
3. Keep the events in a logical order.

Writer:

The storm cloud moved over the oval. We packed our equipment quickly. And then, the rain began and everyone ran for cover.



CHECK: pronouns • linking phrases • sentence boundaries • capitals • spelling • punctuation

Name: _____

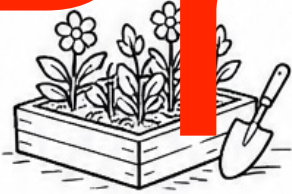
Date: _____

PARAGRAPH PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT – PLAN

Choose ONE task. Plan one focused paragraph in your own words.

A — INFORMATIVE

Explain how a school garden helps learners.



B — PERSUASIVE

Convince the community to support a new library reading corner.



C — IMAGINATIVE

Write about a sudden storm during a journey.



MY CHOICE: _____

PURPOSE AND AUDIENCE

TOPIC SENTENCE, POINT OR OPENING

SUPPORTING DETAILS, EVIDENCE OR EVENTS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

EXPLAIN OR ELABORATE

LINK OR CONCLUSION

USEFUL VOCABULARY



Use your own ideas. Do not copy the examples from this unit.



PLAN CHECK: one main idea • logical order • enough detail • clear ending

Name: _____

Date: _____

PARAGRAPH PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT — WRITE & EDIT



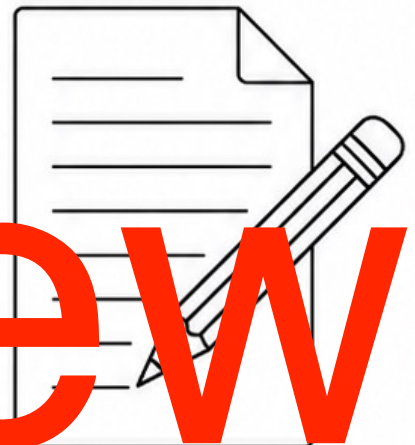
Write your final paragraph. Aim for 8-12 well-crafted sentences.

Preview

Preview

EDITING CHECK

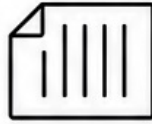
- ☐ one clear main idea
- ☐ logical sequence
- ☐ supporting details, evidence or events
- ☐ explanation or elaboration
- ☐ a clear concluding sentence
- ☐ varied and precise vocabulary
- ☐ complete sentences, capital letters and punctuation



REFLECTION

My strongest sentence is: _____

I strengthened my paragraph by: _____



PEELING PARAGRAPHS – YEAR 4 RUBRIC



CRITERIA	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
FOCUS & TOPIC SENTENCE 	Main idea is unclear.	Main idea is present but broad.	Clear main idea and topic sentence.	Focus is sustained and specific.	Precise focus strongly shapes the paragraph.
SUPPORTING IDEAS 	Few or repeated ideas.	Some relevant details.	Relevant details develop the main idea.	Well-chosen details include explanation.	Compelling details are smoothly integrated.
STRUCTURE & COHESION 	Order is hard to follow.	Some sequence is evident.	Ideal order with a clear ending.	Smooth links connect the ideas.	Seamless cohesion strengthens the whole paragraph.
VOCABULARY & SENTENCE CRAFT 	Simple or repetitive language.	Some precise words and varied sentence structures.	Substantial vocabulary and sentence variety.	Precise vocabulary creates a clear picture.	Carefully crafted language is vivid or convincing.
CONVENTIONS & EDITING 	Frequent errors make meaning difficult.	Some errors remain.	Spelling and punctuation are mostly correct.	Accurate conventions support fluent reading.	Polished editing makes the paragraph publication-ready.

Overall judgement: _____

Teacher comment: _____

Peeling Paragraphs



What Is a Paragraph?



A paragraph is a group of sentences about one central idea.
It helps the reader follow the writer's thinking.



Why Paragraphs Help Readers

Paragraphs break writing into clear chunks.

Each new idea starts a new paragraph.

Readers can pause, predict and connect ideas.





One Paragraph, One Main Idea

Ask: What is this paragraph mostly about?

Every supporting sentence should build that same idea.

Do not include unrelated details to another paragraph.



Three Paragraph Purposes



Informative paragraphs explain facts.

Persuasive paragraphs convince a reader.

Imaginative paragraphs create an event or experience.



Topic Sentences Launch the Idea

A topic sentence introduces the paragraph's central idea.
Make it specific enough to guide every sentence that follows.



Supporting Details Build Meaning

Add facts, examples, evidence, reasons or events.
Choose details that clearly support the central idea.



Explain the Detail



It does not leave evidence on its own.
Explain how the fact, reason, example or event connects to the main idea.



Link and Conclude



A linking sentence returns to the central idea.

It can sum up, show a result or lead smoothly to the next idea.



Meet PEE!



P — Point: state the claim.

E — Evidence: support the point.

E — Explain: show why the evidence matters.

L — Link: return to the main idea.





PEEL Worked Example

Point: Every class should go outdoors once a week.

Evidence: Calm outdoor settings can help students settle.

Explain: With the class can focus closely on a shared text.

Link: Therefore, outdoor learning can make one weekly lesson focused and memorable.



PEEL Label Practice



Read a persuasive paragraph and label each sentence P, E, E or L.

Then

Does the evidence support the point?

Does the explanation show why it matters?

Does the link return to the main idea?



Meet TEEEL

T — Topic sentence: introduce the claim.

E — Evidence: support the claim.

E — Explanation: connect evidence to the claim.

L — Link: conclude the paragraph.



PEEL or TEEEL

Both structures organise persuasive thinking.

PEEL begins with a Point.

TEEEL begins with a Topic sentence.

Both use Evidence, Explain and Link.



Informative Paragraphs



1. Introduce the new topic.
2. Use accurate facts and explanations.
3. Use vocabulary and linking phrases.
4. Finish with a concluding sentence.



Informative Worked Example

Bees help a garden grow as they visit flowers for nectar, pollen can move between blooms. This process helps many plants produce fruit and seeds. Overall, bees are important garden helpers.



Informative Practice



Write one paragraph explaining how bees help a garden.
Plan a clear topic sentence, three connected facts and a conclusion.
Use precise words such as nectar, pollen and bloom.



Persuasive Paragraphs



- 1. State your claim.
- 2. Give relevant evidence or reasons.
- 3. Explain why each reason matters.
- 4. Link your reasoning back to the claim.



Persuasive Worked Example



Every class should enjoy outdoor reading each week. A calm change of setting can make shared reading feel special. This may help students listen closely and discuss the text with confidence. Therefore, outdoor reading is a worthwhile weekly routine.



Persuasive Practice



Should every class have one outdoor reading lesson each week?

Choose your position.

Plan a paragraph with a point, evidence, explanation and link.



Imaginative Paragraphs



One with a clear event or focus.

A mix of actions, thoughts and sensory details.

Keep events in a logical order.

Use the previous event to lead into what happens next.



Imaginative Worked Example

A parcel waited on the doormat, wrapped in brown paper. I lifted it carefully and heard a soft ticking inside. The paper felt warm beneath my fingers. Just as I pulled the ribbon, the ticking stopped.



Use Sensory Detail



Help readers picture the moment.

What does the character see, hear, feel, smell or taste?

Choose one or two precise details instead of listing every sense.



Build Cohesion



Use synonyms to avoid forward repetition.
Repeat keywords when they guide the reader.

Connect ideas with phrases such as for example, as a result, meanwhile and overall.



Edit Before You Finish



Check that every sentence supports one main idea.

Look out for logical order and smooth links.

Fix sentence case, spelling, capitals and punctuation.

Read aloud once more.





Well Done!



Peeling Paragraphs Quiz



Question 1

True or false?

A topic sentence introduces the paragraph's main idea.



Answer 1

True.

A strong topic sentence introduces and controls the paragraph's central idea.





Question 2

Which is the strongest topic sentence for a paragraph about school gardens?

- A. Gardens are everywhere.
- B. A school garden gives students a practical place to learn.
- C. Gardens are like green.
- D. I went outside yesterday.



Answer 2

B. A school curriculum gives students a practical place to learn.
It introduces a focused idea that details can support.





Question 3

Short answer:

Name _____ as that supporting details can do.



Answer 3

Supporting details can give facts, examples, evidence, reasons or events.

They can also explain and develop the paragraph's main idea.





Question 11

Which is the strongest linking sentence for a paragraph about bees?

A. Bees are yellow.

B. I saw a bee.

C. Flowers are pretty.

D. Over half the people in my garden have bees. Bees play an important part in helping many garden plants grow.



Answer 4



D. Overall, bees play an important part in helping many garden plants grow.

It relates to the paragraph's main idea.





Question 5

True or false?

PEEL and TEEL are the same Evidence, Explain and Link steps.



Answer 5

PEEL begins with a Point, while TEEL begins with a Topic sentence. The other three steps match.



Question 6



Which detail best supports the claim for weekly outdoor reading?

- A. Some chairs are blue.
- B. Lunch comes later.
- C. A change in setting helps students focus on a shared text.
- D. The oval has grass.



Answer 6

C. A calm change in setting can help students focus on a shared text.
It is relevant evidence for the claim.



Question 7



Short answer:

Give one linking phrase that could conclude an informative paragraph.



Answer 7



Answers may include:

Overall, As a result, therefore, In conclusion, or For this reason.



Question 8



Which imagined sequence is most logical?

- A. Find parcel → hear ticking → untie ribbon
- B. Untie ribbon → find parcel → hear ticking
- C. Hear ticking → go home → find parcel
- D. Open parcel → parcel arrives → see parcel



Answer 8

A. Find parcel → hear ticking → untie ribbon.

The events move in a clear chronological order.





Question 1

True or false?

A strong paragraph can jump between unrelated main ideas.



Answer d



A strong paragraph develops one central idea. Unrelated ideas belong in another paragraph.





Question 10

Short answer question:

List three things to make when editing a paragraph.



Answer 10



possible check include:

- clear main idea in logical order
- clear links and sentence sense
- spelling, capitals and punctuation





Well Done!

