

Writing Paragraphs → Unity and Coherence

Level: Elementary

*A paragraph is a group of related sentences revolving around one central idea. The topic sentence states this idea, the middle sentences support the idea with details, and the concluding sentence wraps up the idea. **Paragraph unity** means all sentences must focus on the main topic, without adding unrelated information. **Coherence** refers to connecting the ideas in a flowing or logical way, and keeping the same point of view and consistent verb tense.*

Read each paragraph. Underline the sentence that disturbs the unity of the paragraph.

1. Even though my brother is three years older than I, we share many similarities. Both of us have bright red hair. I don't like computer games at all, although he does. We both play baseball, and we are both pitchers. Both of us enjoy reading. Because we are so similar, we do many things together.
2. My school day is filled to the brim with activity. First, the day starts with home room. Then I go to math class, which I really enjoy. Before lunch, I always have gym class. Next came lunch in the cafeteria, where I caught up with friends. By the end of the day, I just want to relax and play with my friends, after being so busy.
3. Many families have different traditions for New Year's. One family may go to a skating party, and count down to midnight with the other skaters. Another family might get together on New Year's Day for a big brunch at a hotel. Some families open their presents on Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day. Each family celebrates New Year's in its own special way.
4. Students can improve their grades if they study and do their homework. By doing work your teacher assigns, you can learn the things he or she is trying to teach you. Then, when the class moves on to the next lesson, the students have little trouble learning the new material. That's because the things they just learned flow into the new work. By keeping up with homework, students find each new lesson easy to follow, and their grades soon start going up.
5. There are many different and wonderful types of literature, which is why reading is such a great thing. Science fiction centers on things that could possibly happen in the future. Biographies tell about people's lives. Songs often have great lyrics, and they're easy to move to. With so many enjoyable and interesting types of literature in the world, good reading skills are very important.

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