

How to write an interesting paragraph?

WRITING is a process that involves several steps. If you follow these steps, and practice writing often, you will find it easy to write paragraphs and improve your writing

Step One — Prewriting: Think about your topic and organise your ideas.

Step Two — Writing: Use your ideas to write a draft.

Step Three — Revising: Improve what you have written.

Step One — Prewriting

Prewriting is the thinking, talking, reading and writing you do about your topic before you write a first draft. Prewriting is a way of warming up your brain before you write, just as you warm up your body before you exercise. Brainstorming and clustering are two ways to warm up.

Brainstorming

Brainstorming is a quick way to generate many ideas on a subject. The purpose is to make a list of as many ideas as possible without worrying about how you will use them. Your list can include words, phrases, sentences, or even questions. Use the following steps to brainstorm:

1. Begin with a broad topic.
2. Write down as many ideas about the topic as you can in 5 minutes.
3. Add more items to your list by answering the questions: What, How, When, Where, Why and Who.
4. Group similar items on the list together.
5. Cross out items that do not belong.

Clustering

Clustering is another prewriting technique. It is a visual way of showing how your ideas are connected using circles and lines. When you cluster, you draw a diagram of your ideas. You can use the following steps:

1. Write your topic in the center of a blank piece of paper and draw a circle around it.
2. Write any ideas that come into your mind about the topic in circles around the main circle.
3. Connect these ideas to the center word with a line.
4. Think about each of your new ideas; write more related ideas in circles.
5. Repeat this process until you run out of ideas.

Step Two — Writing

After you have thought about your topic and completed the necessary prewriting, you are ready to write your paragraph. When you write the first draft of your paragraph, use the ideas you generated as a guide. As you write, remember to:

- Begin with a topic sentence that states the main idea.
- Include several sentences that support the main idea.
- Stick to the topic – do not include information that does not directly support the main idea.
- Arrange the sentences so that the order of ideas makes sense.
- Use signal words to help the reader understand how the ideas in your paragraph are connected.

Step Three — Revising

It is not possible to write a perfect paragraph in the

first try. The first try is called the first draft. After you complete the first draft, you must look for ways to improve it.

This step is called revising. While revising your paragraph, you can:

- add new ideas to support the topic.
- cross out sentences that do not support the topic.
- change the order of the sentences.

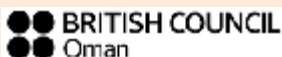
Use the following checklist to revise your paragraphs.

REVISING CHECKLIST

- Make sure you have a topic sentence.
- Cross out sentences that do not relate to the main idea.
- Check to see if the sentences are in the right order.
- Add new ideas if they support the topic sentence.
- Make sure you include signal words to help guide the reader.
- Check the punctuation, spelling, and grammar.

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Help Yourself — Websites for Students

www.go4english.com is a new website which has been specially designed for students in this region. It has help in Arabic, English and Farsi. There are also level tests, interactive games, help with vocabulary and grammar and message boards so that you can interact with other students. It also provides support for those studying for the IELTS examination.

Learn English

(www.britishcouncil.org/central) is a website for helping you with your language skills. It features daily updated theme-based materials that let you practise your English through online games, articles, songs, stories, cartoons and much more.

BBC Learning English

(www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish) has excellent activities, some of which are linked to audio and video stories from the BBC News website.

Agreat resource.

English Club

(www.englishclub.com) has a wide selection of information and exercises for all interests at all levels

Cutting Edge

(www.longman.com/cuttingedge) offers resources for students using this popular textbook and gives you plenty of practice for your classroom studies.

Cambridge Dictionaries

(www.dictionary.cambridge.org) is an excellent site for learners of English.

Grammar

www.englishpage.com — grammar exercises and explanations
www.usingenglish.com — another grammar website, try the quizzes section as well.

www.nonstopenglish.com — more grammar exercises

Listening

www.ello.org — choose from a huge

number of recordings by native speakers of English and then answer the questions
www.esl-lab.com — also has a wide choice of recordings, with quizzes to accompany them.

Spelling

www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/spelling — many different worksheets, games and quizzes
www.learnenglish.de/grammar/spelling text — more practice with explanation of rules and common problem words

Pronunciation

www.trainyouraccent.com — offers hints, tips and exercises on how to make your pronunciation sound more natural
www.shiporsheep.org — very good site for the practice of individual sounds
www.fonetiks.org — this website allows you to choose from 9 different native accents and has links to other great pronunciation sites

Reading

www.breakingnewsenglish.com — excellent simplified newspaper articles for English learners
www.english-zone.com — packed with reading texts for all levels
www.agendaweb.org/reading — another wide selection of stories and texts to choose from, though make sure you have your glasses as the print is quite small!

Writing

www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words — an excellent website to learn more about sentences

Websites for IELTS students

www.ielts.org — everything you need to know about the exam — and more
www.asknynz.com.ielts will give you some ideas on how to approach the exam
www.ielts-test.com will help those studying for the academic module of the exam

Oman invites Asia to celebrate one year countdown to 2nd Asian Beach Games Muscat 2010

Countdown Clock to be revealed

Muscat — The Asian Olympic Family joined Oman in celebration of the one year countdown to the 2nd Asian Beach Games Muscat 2010 on 8 December 2009 in Muscat.

During the Muscat 2010 One Year Countdown celebration, which had been endorsed by H.H. Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture and Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee (MABGOC) Chairman, the official Games Invitation would be presented to the 45 Asian National Olympic Committees welcoming their participation in the 2nd Asian Beach Games.

Dignitaries, sports leaders and VIP guests including OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, and representatives from the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Family, local government officials, National Olympic Committee representatives, international and Asian federations joined MABGOC to reveal the Countdown Clock. The design for the clock has been kept in confidence since a public competition was held earlier this year. Ideally located between Sultan Qaboos Road and the Ministries Road, the clock will count-down the days to the kick-off of the 2nd Asian Beach Games. Following the Games the clock will remain as a legacy marking the special milestone.

MABGOC Director General expressed the organisers' excitement in welcoming guests to the One Year Countdown celebrations and to the Games to be held in December 2010.

"We are eager to present to Asia and to the world, what Oman has to offer as we host the continents' athletes in December 2010. Oman has been preparing since 2006 to welcome Asia in the spirit of sport, and the One Year Countdown is a major milestone in our preparations as we lead up to Games-time. Our recently announced Games slogan denotes our anticipation in welcoming Asia to Oman's shores to participate in the 2nd Asian Beach Games - Together We Shine – expresses how we

BE A VOLUNTEER!

Muscat 2010 Volunteers Programme introduced at Majan University College Career Fair

Muscat — Muscat Asian Beach Games Organising Committee (MABGOC) made its first introduction of the Muscat 2010 Volunteers programme to over 1500 participants at the Career Fair held in Tuesday and Wednesday, at Majan University College, as a lead-up to the official launch of the programme in January 2010.

The Volunteers programme is also unveiling its new logo – a sub logo for the Games which takes off from the official Games logo. Continuing to use the Games slogan of Together We Shine, the Volunteers logo uses the sail graphic stylized to represent people holding hands, participating, and cooperating. The leading colour will be red, which symbolizes energy, passion and excitement.

Volunteers have long been an indispensable part of sports extravaganzas and represent the 'true Olympian spirit' as International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge has so acutely described. Through the Volunteers programme, Muscat 2010 will have the unique opportunity to create a legacy for Oman as a way of instilling community involvement and spirit and a chance for the local population to play a vital role in the largest event ever hosted in the Sultanate.

MABGOC will be recruiting volunteers, 18 years and older, for the various departments of Sports, Venues, Games Services, Protocol, IT, Media Services, Broadcasting, Marketing, Accreditation, Human Resources, Ceremonies, and Medical Services, which will enable

applicants with related backgrounds to utilize their skills and acquire additional trainings, while garnishing experiences in their valuable contribution to the success of the 2nd Asian Beach Games to be held in December 2010.

You can sign up for the Volunteers programme by visiting the booth a Majan University College Career Fair located in Ruwi on 15-16 December from 10am – 5pm.

The 2nd Asian Beach Games is a multi-sport event sanctioned by the Olympic Council of Asia and will be held 8-16 December 2010. The Games encourage Asia's youth to participate in sport and celebrate the vast and varied cultures found across the continent. It works to uplift national pride and create a festival of cooperation and ca-



maraderie. The Asian Beach Games are composed of a variety of modern sports as well as variations on traditional sports. Twelve sports are on the Muscat 2010 programme: beach soccer, beach handball, beach kabaddi, beach sepaktakraw, beach volleyball, beach woodball, bodybuilding, jetski, marathon swimming, sailing, tent pegging and triathlon.



are ready to greet the 45 Asian countries and regions to this festival of culture and sport," he said.

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VIEWPOINT

People behave differently when they wear different clothes

WE live in a big world with a lot of people who are always seeking to be different and special. They use different things in order to achieve this desire; one of these things is their clothes. So, can you imagine that different clothes are able to control people's behaviors? Who can realize that a piece of clothes have the power to do such thing? This is what the following students will try to express their opinions towards.

Written by: Huda Humaid Al Hatmi

Grade: 12

Al Hajar Basic Education Girls School (5-12)



I COMPLETELY agree because I think that clothes can tell others who you are. For example, if you wear colorful and beautiful clothes,

most people will think that you are a happy, comfortable and relaxed person. On the other hand, clothes are just clothes. They cannot make you a president! Your personality, your knowledge and your beliefs are the main engines that can make you behave differently, not your clothes.

Written by: Mizna Salim Al Muqrashi

Grade: 12/2

Teacher: Aliaa Al Hatmi
Al-Hajar Basic Education
Girls School(5-12)



I THINK yes, different clothes can affect people's behaviors because every kind of clothes is made to express specific feelings in people. Thus, they

will surly behave according to their different clothes.

So dear readers, try to wear clothes that will make you look as a special person in the eyes of others.

Written by: Huda Humaid
Al Hatmi

Grade: 12/2

Teacher: Aliaa Al Hatmi
Al-Hajar Basic Education
School(5-12)

MOST people think that clothes reflect your personality and you cultures. If you wear clothes that are not suitable to your culture, you surly will do things that completely do not fit with yourself and your culture.

However, I think it is better to be as you are and "never ever try to be someone else". the change in our life is very essential, but not in all the aspects of our life. If we stop for a moment and think deeply in the situation that we will put ourselves in when we change our clothes and behavior, it will be as if we take different pictures and try to gather them as one picture; they will not fit as a perfect one. So my advice for you to let your slogan to be "I'll leave my print not the other's print".

Written by: Asia Rashid Amer Al Hatmi

Grade: 12/2

Teacher: Aliaa Al Hatmi
Al-Hajar Basic Education
Girls School(5-12)



Dear Khalah Asia

Khala Asia replies ...

if you are worried about something, share it with yO's agony aunt, Khala Asia — she'll help you with your problems

Dear Khala Asia,

I am 13 years old and my mom always says that I am sensitive and sometimes spoiled and that hurts me. I feel that my mom prefers my older sister; she asks for her opinions, she always praises her in front of everybody and doesn't do the same with me. I started to hate my sister and wish she dies.

— Noora

Dear Noora,

Never think that mothers prefer one child than the rest, mothers love their children exactly the same way love & forgiveness is what exists deep in their hearts. You need to ask yourself one important question; how can I make my mom proud of me?

Stop blaming her and your older sister, study well, get good marks, be helpful, add happiness to the house and trust you mother big heart. You also need to sit and open your heart to your mother; tell her about your feelings and how much you love her and want her to be proud of you. Remember that:

*Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,*

But only one mother the wide world over.

— George Cooper

Take care

Dear Khala Asia,

I am Salim and I am 16 years old .My parents got divorced few months back after 20 years of marriage .My mom had to leave the house and left me and my two younger sisters with dad. I am still shocked and going through a denial stage .How could this happen? What about us? I can't imagine living a way from any of them as I love them both. My dad is in a very bad mood since mom left and my sisters are depressed. Tell me what to do.

— Salim

Dear Salim,

I am very sorry for what happened to all of you and really understand what you are going through. In many cases the victims of divorce are the children who become distracted between both parents. God does not favour divorces and in fact encourages the continuation of marriage.You are still young my dear and may not be aware of the reasons for the divorce of your parents .they may have tried several times to avoid it ,but found it as the

only way to solve their problems. Divorce is not the end of the world and you need to be strong to help your younger sister to go over it. Sit and talk to your dad in a good way, find suitable mechanism to visit your mom and be connected as much as possible. They both love you and will do their best to ensure your happiness and success. If things got difficult, seek some help from your close relatives and don't struggle alone.

I will pray for all of you. Take care

Dear Khala Asia,

Last week I joined my family to Al-Sahwa Park to spend the evening and enjoy the weather, it was a nice evening where we played, ate and had a very nice talks. Unfortunately I went back home sad instead of happy and that was due to the amount of wastes people left behind in the park. How could they do such a thing? Why don't they leave the place clean to be enjoyed by others?

— Reem

Dear Reem,

You are a wonderful girl who is well aware of the issues that hurt the environment. We need to be

responsible about our environment and cooperate to keep it clean and beautiful. Some people are uncivilized and don't have the feeling of social responsibility. We have to think of the whole planet as our own house; love it, keep it clean and protect it. Our prophet Mohammed' peace be upon him' encourages all Muslims to be clean and to keep their environment clean as well. You can help also; tell your friends how important it is to keep their houses, neighborhood, parks and beaches clean. Do ,with the help of your friends, posters, and leaflets to raise community awareness of cleanness issues. If we all collaborate we will

Keep in touch

Send your questions to Khala Asia on any subject regarding school, family, friends, etc. Please include your name, school & wilayat.

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