**Level :** 1st year **Module :** Written Expression **Teacher :** Mrs. Bencharef. S

**Lesson : Characteristics of a good paragraph**

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| 1. **Unity :**   Unity in a paragraph means that the entire paragraph should focus on **one single** **idea** mentioned in the topic sentence. The supporting details should explain the main idea. The concluding sentence should end the paragraph with the same idea. If your paragraph contains a sentence or some sentences that are NOT related to the main topic, then we say that the paragraph "lacks unity." the sentence which is off-topic is called an **irrelevant sentence.**  ***Let’s Practise:* Identify the irrelevant sentence in the following paragraphs.**  The capital city of a country is usually a very important city. The government offices are located in the capital city and political leaders usually live there nearby. There are many different types of governments in the world. The capital may also be the centre of culture. There are often museums, libraries, and universities in the capital. Finally, the capital city can serve as a centre of trade, industry and commerce, so it is often the financial centre of a country. As a consequence, the capital city is usually the most crowded and developed city in a country. |
| * In short, behaviors, types of activities, and pysical apprearance of friends must be similar to be good friends. * Second, the types of activities they prefer can give us a clue. If we are not a cigarette-smoker or a cursing person, we wouldn’t want to see such people around us. * Friends may affect us in a negative or positive way, we should be selective in choosing our friends. * Dogs can be very faithful and loyal friends if trained correctly. * Finally, physical appearances should be compatible as well. Some people may not agree with me, but I think a very short person and a very tall person would not be able to get on well for a long time. * First, we observe their behaviors. We should have similar characters so that we can get along.   ..........................................................................................................................................  ..........................................................................................................................................  ..........................................................................................................................................  ..........................................................................................................................................  ..........................................................................................................................................  **Coherence** means that all the ideas in a paragraph flow naturally from to another. they are arranged in a clear and logical way so that the reader can easily understand the main points. Sentences are connected logically together thanks to **cohesive devices (transitions, pronouns, repetition of key words).**  Coherence has to do with organizing and ordering the ideas. there are three ways to think about organizing details in a paragraph :   * **Logical Order** : one idea leads logically to the next. For example, least important to most important, general to specific, familiar to new or unknown. For example, if you are writing a paragraph to persuade your audience, you may want to provide your examples in order of importance. The weaker example appears first and your strongest example appears last. * **Space Order**: puts the details in an order relating to the physical world ; for example, left to right, top to bottom, close to far away. For example, if you needed to provide directions on how to get somewhere, you would begin at the starting point and provide the directions a person might need to reach the destination. If yoy miss a step in the directions, yur audiencewill be lost ! * **Time Order**: puts the details in an order relating to time (hours, days, months, ....) ; for example, past to present, present to future, first to last.   **Cohesive Devices :**  They are words or phrases that connect sentences and paragraphs together, creating a smooth flow of ideas. They include :   * **Transitions :** they conncet sentences together or relate ideas to one another. here are several types of writing and some common transitions that are used with them. * **Chronology :** *before- after- next- since- first, second, ...- while- when* * **Comparison :** *likewise- compared to- similary- as....as and* * **Contrast :** *however- on the other hand- but- yet- in spite of- in contrast- although- instead* * **Additional information :** *and- also- besides- in addition- in fact- furthermore- moreover- another....- equally important-* * **Examples :** *for example- for instance- in general- generally- specifically- in particular- indeed* * **Cause and effect :** *therefore- so- thus- as a result- since- because* * **Concluding ideas :** *in conclusion- in summary- finally- therefore- to conclude- to summarize- in brief- in short.* * **Pronoun reference :** Two sentences can be connected by the use of a pronoun. Pronouns quite naturally connect ideas because pronouns almost always refer the reader to something earlier in the text.   Example :  **American Sign Language** developed from a mixture of signs used by deaf Americans and French sign Language. Today, **it** is used by more than 500,000 deaf people in the United States and Canada.  **→** The pronoun *it* refers back to the subject, *American Sign Language,* and connects the two sentences together.   * **Repetition of key words or ideas :** Another way to connect ideas is by repeating important words or phrases. Thius will help the reader remember the main ideas in the text.   Example :  Modern **medicine** focuses on illness. If a patient with a cough visits a modern dictor, then the doctor will give the patient a medicine to stop the cough. If the patient also has a fever, the doctor may give a different **medicine** to stop the fever. For every person with a cough, the doctoc will probably recommend the same cough **medicine**. The philosophy of modern **medicine** is to stop problems like coughing and fever as quickly as possible.    Below is a good coherent paragraph . *Italics* indicates pronouns and repeated/restated key words, **bold** indicates transitional tag-words, and underlining indicates parallel structures.  The ancient Egyptians were masters of preserving dead people's bodies by *making mummies* of them. **In short**, *mummification* consisted of removing the internal organs, applying natural preservatives inside and out, and then wrapping the body in layers of bandages. **And** *the process* was remarkably effective. **Indeed**, *mummies* several thousand years old have been discovered nearly intact. *Their* skin, hair, teeth, fingernails and toenails, and facial features are **still** evident. *Their* diseases in life, such as smallpox, arthritis, and nutritional deficiencies, are **still** diagnosable. **Even** *their* fatal afflictions are **still** apparent: a middle-aged king died from a blow on the head; a child king died from polio. |
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