



# When and Why to Start a New Paragraph

KS4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

WRITING SKILLS

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

## What is a Paragraph?

A **paragraph** is a group of sentences that all talk about one main idea. Think of it like organizing your bedroom—you put similar things together (clothes in one drawer, books on one shelf) to make everything easier to find and understand.

Think of it like... a paragraph is like a chapter in a story. Each chapter focuses on one part of the adventure before moving to the next exciting bit.

## The Main Rule: One Idea per Paragraph

The biggest clue that you need a new paragraph is when you're about to write about a **different main idea**. If your paragraph is about why cats make good pets, and you're about to explain why dogs are better, that's time for a new paragraph.

## When to Start a New Paragraph

**Change of topic or idea:** This is the golden rule. When your writing moves from one subject to another, start fresh. If you're writing about the causes of World War II and then want to discuss what happened during the war, that's a new paragraph.

**New speaker in dialogue:** Every time a different person speaks, create a new paragraph. This helps readers follow who is talking.

**New time or place:** If your story moves to a different location or jumps forward in time, a new paragraph signals this change to your reader.

**Introducing evidence or examples:** If you're writing a **persuasive essay**, start a new paragraph when you introduce a fresh piece of evidence or a different supporting example.

Think of it like... walking through different rooms in a house. Each room is a paragraph, and when you walk through a doorway, you're starting something new.

## How to Know You've Written Too Much

If your paragraph looks like a giant block of text that fills half a page, it's probably too long. Readers' eyes get tired! Good paragraphs are usually **3 to 7 sentences**, though this can vary depending on your writing style.

## **Practice Makes Perfect**

The best way to learn paragraph breaks is to read widely. Look at books, articles, and websites. Notice where authors start new paragraphs and ask yourself why. Soon, it will become a natural habit!