

**A) Read the paragraphs below and answer the following questions.**

1. What's the topic of the paragraph?
2. What's the main idea about the topic?
3. What ideas help explain the main idea?

Because people must deal with the same set of biological needs and functions and universal social problems, it is very possible and in many cases very likely that the ways in which they are addressed are the same. That is, universal biological needs and social problems can lead to similar solutions across cultures, especially over time in our evolutionary history. Thus, many aspects of our mental processes and behaviors can be considered universal. For example, all humans appear to have some degree of specific fears, such as to snakes, spiders, heights, and darkness, because these types of fears have led in our evolutionary history to greater probability of survival (Seligman & Hager, 1972). As well, people have a tendency to perceive their own ingroup as heterogeneous, fully recognizing the individual differences that exist in that group, whereas they perceive other groups as more homogeneous, assuming less diversity within the group (Linville & Jones, 1980; Triandis, McCusker, & Hui, 1990). People also seem to have a natural proclivity to fears of strangers and outgroup members, which may be a universal basis for ethnocentrism, prejudice, aggression, and even war (Buss, 2001; see also Dovidio & colleagues, this volume). Other universal processes, such as incest avoidance, facial expressions of emotion, division of labor by sex, revenge and retaliation, mate selection and sexual jealousy, self-enhancement, and personality can be traced to the core aspect of a universal human nature based on biological imperatives and universal social problems of adaptation and living.

Source: Matsumoto, D. Culture and Nonverbal Behavior. In: Valerie Manusov & Miles L. Patterson. *The SAGE Handbook of Nonverbal Communication*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE, 2006, p. 220.

**B) The following sentences are in mixed order. To form a paragraph they need to be reorganised. Underline the key sentence and put the sentences in the correct order by numbering them 1–5.**

- a It is mainly formal, impersonal and objective.
- b In most of these the writer is expected to include references to other writing or research.
- c Academic writing is a particular kind of writing that can be recognised by its style.
- d These include essays, research reports and articles, case studies, surveys, dissertations, theses, and examination papers.
- e Other distinctive features will depend upon the specific types of academic writing.

Source: Jordan, R., R. *Academic Writing Course*. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 1999.

## Paragraph

### Structure

- Topic sentence
  
- Supporting sentences
  - Give details
  - Give an explanation
  - Give an example
  
- Concluding sentence

### C) Choose the best among the four topic sentences given for the paragraph below.

1. There are three major differences between a thesis and a dissertation.
2. Although originality and significance provide some basis for distinguishing a thesis from a dissertation, other qualities need to be considered.
3. Despite having different names, a thesis and a dissertation are, in fact, very similar in most respects.
4. It is reasonable to expect that various types of texts, namely essays, theses, and dissertations, share a wide range of common features.

...First, both are expected to follow principles of sound research design and implementation. Both also follow the same principles of good academic writing style and are written up in much same way, sharing as they do similar structure, organization and formatting conventions. Finally, both require you, as a researcher, to produce a piece of work that is original and adds to the body of knowledge in the field with which your research is associated.

(Murray, Beglar, 2009, s. 3)

Source: Štěpánek, de Haaf et al. *Academic English*. Praha: Grada, 2011.

**D) Identify the topic sentence of the paragraphs below.****1. Adventure Tourism**

Adventure tourism is a different way for tourists to see New Zealand. This type of tourism uses the plentiful natural resources - mountains, rivers, lakes, wilderness areas and historical sites to provide adventure, thrills and challenges which are low risk but high in excitement. For example, the coastal areas in New Zealand are great for canoeing and kayaking. White-water rafting is another popular water adventure tour. However, if you would rather keep your feet on the ground, New Zealand has over 100 developed walkways in addition to the tracks in the 12 National Parks. Because more and more tourists are interested in learning about New Zealand by doing exciting and unusual activities, adventure tourism will continue to grow.

**2. Time Management**

No matter how you slice it, there are only 24 hours in a day. To be successful at university, students need to learn good time-management skills. The first skill is not taking on more than you can handle. If you are a working part-time, have a family and are involved in a community organisation, then taking a full course-load at university will be too much. Another time management skill is reasonably estimating the time required to perform each of the tasks at hand. For example, deeply reading a chapter from a course text cannot be completed in between television programmes. Finally, actually doing what needs to be done seems obvious, but is a very difficult skill. You may find that cleaning out your wardrobe becomes vital when you are avoiding study. Procrastination is a time manager's enemy. By learning time management skills your university study will be successful and most importantly enjoyable.

Source: Hoffman, A., Griffiths, B., Elgort, I. An Academic Writing Module: Paragraphs. Writing exercises for self-directed study. Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington, 2000. Available from: <<[https://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/llc\\_resources/academic-writing/](https://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/llc_resources/academic-writing/)>>

**E. Choose the topic sentence for the following paragraphs.**

1. Thousands of new people are born on our planet every day. The number of inhabitants in the world has already reached over six billion. If the present growth rate remains unchecked, the world may soon face wide-spread starvation, poverty, and serious health problems. \_\_\_\_\_  
(topic sentence).

- a) Therefore, it is predicted that the world will face serious health problems in the near future.
- b) The rapid growth of the world's human population is the most important problem the world needs to address.
- c) One of the burning issues is the population explosion in third world countries.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (topic sentence). Arriving in the land below the Rio Grande River, the Spanish conquistador Hernando Cortés was surprised to see the local inhabitants raising crops that included avocados, corn, garlic and nuts. Onions, tomatoes, chilli peppers and pumpkins were also grown in the rich soil. Irrigation systems were employed in some of the drier regions. The Aztec farmers also were skilful in creating terraced gardens to make the most of the rainfall and to minimise soil erosion. Evidence shows that they employed crop rotation as well as natural fertilisers to enhance the production of their farm products.

- a) The Aztecs of Mexico were a nation of accomplished farmers.
- b) Hernando Cortés discovered farming in Mexico.
- c) Mexico is blessed with rich farmland and an abundance of food products.

Source: Hoffman, A., Griffiths, B., Elgort, I. An Academic Writing Module: Paragraphs. Writing exercises for self-directed study. Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington, 2000. Available from: <<[https://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/llc\\_resources/academic-writing/](https://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/llc_resources/academic-writing/)>>