

Paragraph

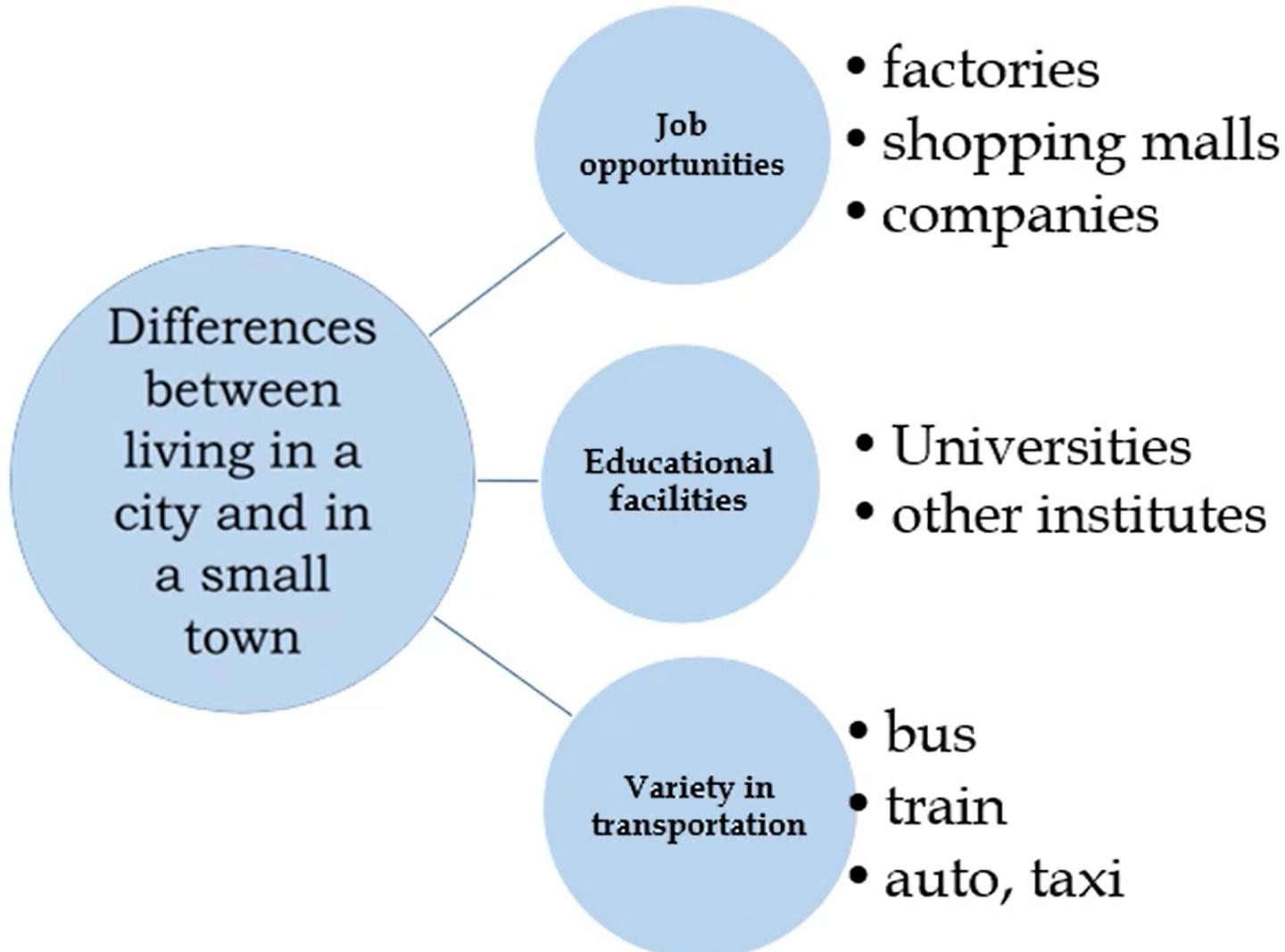
“A paragraph is coherent when its sentences are **logically and clearly related to one another** and their **total effect is the clear development** of the paragraph topic”.

Warriner (1982)

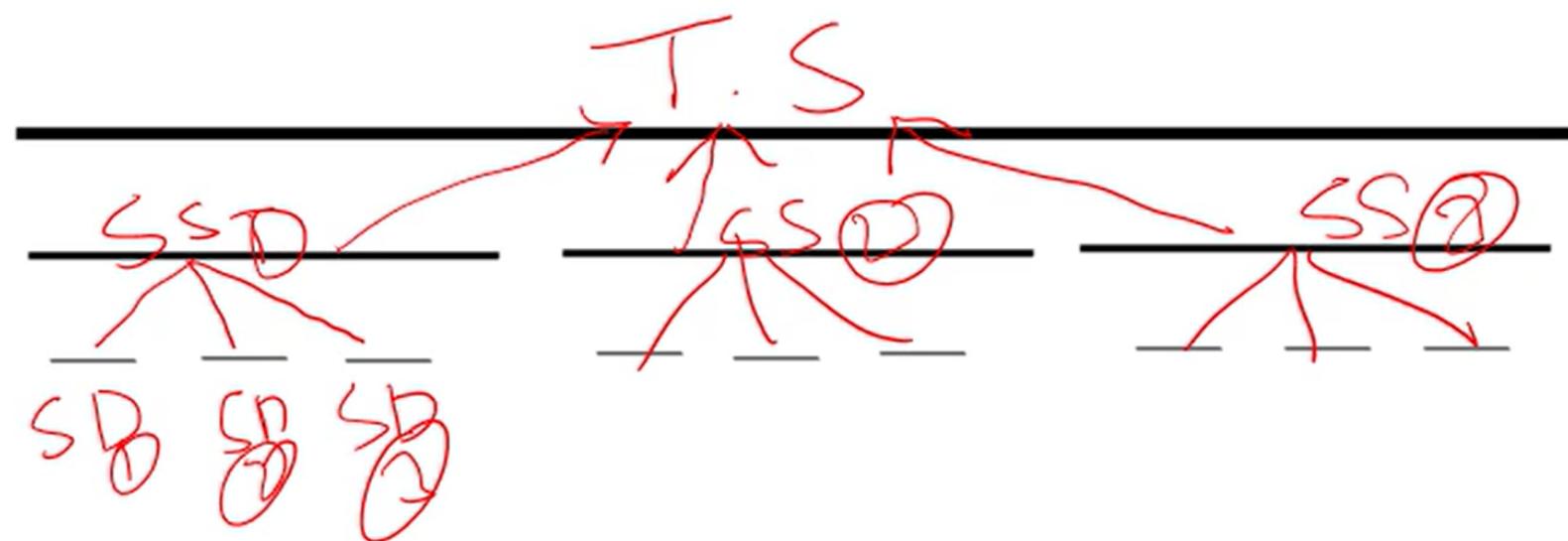
Characteristics of a coherent paragraph

- 1 ✓ Structure: Topic sentence, supporting sentences (with details, examples and explanations) and concluding sentence.
2. Germane ideas: stays on topic & every sentence is relevant.
3. Logical organisation: time, space, importance, general to specific, argument and counter argument, and enumeration (similarities, differences, problems, advantages, benefits etc.).

1. In every big city, there is at least one university which hosts students from both big cities and small towns.
2. To conclude, big cities and small towns differ from each other in terms of job opportunities, education they offer, and variety of public transportation.
3. To begin with, these two places are completely different from each other in terms of job opportunities.
4. Another different point between them is that big cities offer people a better education.
5. There are several important differences between living in a city and in a small town.
6. Unlike small towns, it is easier to find a job in big cities because there are plenty of factories, companies, and shopping centers where people, especially university students, can find part-time jobs.
7. In addition to universities, there are also more educational institutions which offer thousands of courses such as language, dance, and sports in big cities.
8. In big cities, one can find different ways of public transportation such as underground, buses, taxis, and trains.
9. Lastly, in small towns it is not possible to find a variety of public transportation in contrast to big cities.



Organisation of a paragraph



3, 2, 7, 4, 5, 1, 10, 6, 8, 9

Turkey and Greece, two countries bordering the Aegean Sea, share many common points. First of all, they have a similarity in terms of their languages. A great number of the words in Greek and Turkish languages show similarity considering pronunciation or spelling. To exemplify, pea is called 'bezelye' in Turkish and 'bizeli' in Greek. Watermelon means 'karpuz' in Turkish and 'karpuzi' in Greek. Another striking similarity concerns the physical appearance of people. Both Turkish and Greek people are of medium height and a little bit overweight. People living in Greece and Turkey are both brunette and they both have dark colored hair and eyes. Lastly, Turkish and Greek cultures show likenesses in regarding dance and music. Some kinds of folk dances, especially the ones performed in the Aegean Region, in Turkey and some types of Greek folk dances show similarities which are impossible to ignore. Additionally, the songs have very similar rhythms, and some musical instruments like 'tambur' (tambouras in Greek) and 'zurna' ('zurnas' in Greek) are used in both countries. In conclusion, Turkey and Greece are similar to each other in terms of their languages, the physical appearances of their citizens and their music.

Transition

There are several important differences between living in a city and in a small town. **To begin with**, these two places are completely different from each other in terms of job opportunities. **Unlike** small towns, it is easier to find a job in big cities because there are plenty of factories, companies, and shopping centers where people, especially university students, can find part-time jobs. **Another different point** between them is that big cities offer people a better education. In every big city, there is at least one university which hosts students from both big cities and small towns. **In addition to** universities, there are also more educational institutions which offer thousands of courses such as language, dance, and sports in big cities. **Lastly**, in small towns it is not possible to find a variety of public transportation in contrast to big cities. In big cities, one can find different ways of public transportation such as underground, buses, taxis, and trains. **To conclude**, big cities and small towns differ from each other in terms of job opportunities, education they offer, and variety of public transportation.

Transition

Turkey and Greece, two countries bordering the Aegean Sea, share many common points. **First of all**, they have a similarity in terms of their languages. A great number of the words in Greek and Turkish languages show similarity considering pronunciation or spelling. **To exemplify**, pea is called 'bezelye' in Turkish and 'bizeli' in Greek. Watermelon means 'karpuz' in Turkish and 'karpuzi' in Greek. **Another** striking similarity concerns the physical appearance of people. Both Turkish and Greek people are of medium height and a little bit overweight. People living in Greece and Turkey are both brunette and they both have dark colored hair and eyes. **Lastly**, Turkish and Greek cultures show likenesses in regarding dance and music. Some kinds of folk dances, especially the ones performed in the Aegean Region, in Turkey and some types of Greek folk dances show similarities which are impossible to ignore. **Additionally**, the songs have very similar rhythms, and some musical instruments like 'tambur' (tambouras in Greek) and 'zurna' ('zurnas' in Greek) are used in both countries. **In conclusion**, Turkey and Greece are similar to each other in terms of their languages, the physical appearances of their citizens and their music.

Transition expressions

Comparison: like, similarly, likewise, in the same way, in comparison

Contrast: but, however, in contrast, although, different from, another distinction

Cause-effect: because, as a result, consequently, for this reason

Sequence: initially, subsequently, at the onset, next, in turn, then, ultimately

Emphasis: above all, of major interest, unequivocally, significantly, notably

Examples: for example, for instance, specifically, such as, to illustrate, in particular

Adding points: as well as, furthermore, also, moreover, in addition, again, besides

Extended definition

"An extended definition may explain the word's etymology or historical roots, describe sensory characteristics of something (how it looks, feels, sounds, tastes, smells), identify its parts, indicate how something is used, explain what it is not, provide an example of it, and/or note similarities or differences between this term and other words or things"

Stephen Reid, *The Prentice Hall Guide for College Writers*

Extended definition paragraph

Press Esc to exit full screen

¹Since democracy is government of the people, by the people, and for the people, a democratic form of government is not fixed or static. ²Democracy is dynamic; it adapts to the wishes and needs of the people. ³The term *democracy* derives from the Greek word *demos*, meaning “the common people”, and *-kratia*, meaning “strength or power” used to govern or rule. ⁴Democracy is based on the notion that a majority of people creates laws and then everyone agrees to abide by those laws in the interest of the common good. ⁵In a democracy, people are not ruled by a king, a dictator, or a small group of powerful individuals. ⁶Instead, people elect officials who use the power temporarily granted to them to govern the society. ⁷For example, the people may agree that their government should raise money for defense, so the officials levy taxes to support an army. ⁸If enough people decide, however, that taxes for defense are too high, then they request that their elected officials change the laws or they elect new officials. ⁹The essence of democracy lies in its responsiveness: Democracy is a form of government in which laws and lawmakers change as the will of the majority changes.

Extended definition paragraph

Anthropology is the study of humankind, especially of Homo sapiens, the biological species to which we human beings belong. It is the study of how our species evolved from more primitive organisms; it is also the study of how our species developed a mode of communication known as language and a mode of social life known as culture. It is the study of how culture evolved and diversified. And finally, it is the study of how culture, people, and nature interact wherever human beings are found.

Comparison paragraph

Turkey and Greece, two countries bordering the Aegean Sea, **share many common points**. First of all, they **have a similarity** in terms of their languages. A great number of the words in Greek and Turkish languages **show similarity** considering pronunciation or spelling. *To exemplify*, pea is called 'bezelye' in Turkish and 'bizeli' in Greek. Watermelon means 'karpuz' in Turkish and 'karpuzi' in Greek. Another **striking similarity** concerns the physical appearance of people. Both Turkish and Greek people are of medium height and a little bit overweight. People living in Greece and Turkey are both brunette and they both have dark colored hair and eyes. Lastly, Turkish and Greek cultures **show likenesses** in regarding dance and music. Some kinds of folk dances, especially the ones performed in the Aegean Region, in Turkey and some types of Greek folk dances **show similarities** which are impossible to ignore. Additionally, the songs **have very similar** rhythms, and some musical instruments like 'tambur' (tambouras in Greek) and 'zurna' ('zurnas' in Greek) are used in both countries. In conclusion, Turkey and Greece are **similar to each other** in terms of their languages, the physical appearances of their citizens and their music.

Contrast paragraph

There are several important **differences** between living in a city and in a small town. To begin with, these two places are completely **different from each other** in terms of job opportunities. **Unlike** small towns, it is **easier** to find a job in big cities because there are plenty of factories, companies, and shopping centers where people, especially university students, can find part-time jobs. **Another different point** between them is that big cities offer people a **better** education. In every big city, there is at least one university which hosts students from both big cities and small towns. In addition to universities, there are also **more** educational institutions which offer thousands of courses such as language, dance, and sports in big cities. Lastly, in small towns it is not possible to find a variety of public transportation **in contrast to** big cities. In big cities, one can find different ways of public transportation such as underground, buses, taxis, and trains. To conclude, big cities and small towns **differ from each other** in terms of job opportunities, education they offer, and variety of public transportation.

Process paragraph

A process paragraph explains *how* something should be done or *how* something happens.

Two types of process paragraphs

1. Prescriptive process: Usually explains how something *should* be done.

E.g. how to cook something, how to use a laptop, how to get a job.

2. Descriptive process: Typically explains how some natural or social process happens, without being directive or prescriptive.

E.g. how cells split during mitosis, how hailstones form in a cloud, how students react to the pressure of examinations

Process paragraph

Surfing the Internet

Surfing the Internet is easy. First, open your favorite web browser. Next, type the address of your favorite search engine in the browser's address bar. Then click the arrow next to the address bar. When the search engine opens, type a search term in the search field and click the search button next to the search field. Finally, scroll through the list of hits the search engine gives you, click on a link that looks interesting, and use the browser's navigation arrows to return to the list when you have finished viewing the page. These few simple steps connect you to a world of information and entertainment.

Preparation of butter

Butter is prepared through a number of steps. At first, fresh milk is obtained. Next, the cream is separated from milk by churning. Then, the cream is soured and pasteurized. Thus, the butter is obtained. Then this butter is forced into a roller to make it smooth and uniform in taste and colour.

Cause and effect paragraph

In recent decades, cities have grown so large that now about 50% of the Earth's population lives in urban areas. There are **several causes** for this occurrence. First, the increasing industrialization of the 20th century **resulted in** the creation of many jobs, which tended to be located in cities. **Because of** these jobs, which promise a better material life, many people from rural areas were attracted to cities. Second, there were many schools established to educate the children of the new employees. **As a result** many families decided to leave farming communities and move to the cities. Finally, **as** the cities grew, people established places of leisure, entertainment, and culture, such as sports stadiums, theaters, and museums. For many people, these facilities made city life appear more interesting than life on the farm, and **therefore** drew them away from rural communities.

Descriptive paragraph

My best friend Neena is a **very nice** girl whom I have known for ten years. She has such a **nice appearance**. She has beautiful long **blonde hair** and she has a **nice haircut**, too. Her big **blue eyes** are like a deep ocean. With her **physical appearance**, she looks like a movie star. Also, the **freckles on her face** make her so cute. They remind me of my aunt who passed away a few years ago. I like her **character** a lot. She is a **fair-minded person** who treats everyone with equal respect. Furthermore, she is **very calm** and she can keep her **temper** in the most difficult situations. She has some **interesting hobbies and interests**. She spends a lot of time working in the garden. She really likes planting different kinds of flowers or plants. In addition to this, she **is fond of travelling**. Although she is so **young**, she has already visited ten countries so far and she **likes** bringing souvenirs from these countries. I hope we will be friends forever.

Narrative paragraph

The happiest day of my life was when I found my cat Misa five years ago. We had just moved to an enormous city because of my father's job. I had to leave all my friends, so I was feeling thoroughly upset. Every day I cried and begged my parents to go back to our old town, but they did not seem to care. They told me that I would get used to living in this beautiful city and soon I would make lots of friends. However, even at school I didn't talk to anyone and after the school, I immediately went back home and cried till I fell asleep. This situation went on for a couple of weeks. One day I was sitting in our garden and trying to play with stones on my own. Suddenly I heard something like a cry, so I looked around to find out what was going on. Then I saw a cute tiny kitten under a tree. She didn't have a mother and she was hungry. I took her into our house and gave her some milk. After she had drunk some milk, she fell asleep in my arms. After that day, I began to look after her, and she was always with me. Thanks to my lovely kitten, lots of girls and boys from my school began to talk to me and they came to our home to play with her. Finally, I had lots of friends! From then on, I had never felt alone, and Misa and I didn't leave each other.

Take-home message

- A paragraph is coherent when its sentences are **logically and clearly related to one another** and their **total effect is the clear development** of the paragraph topic".
- **Characteristics of a coherent paragraph**
 1. Structure: Topic sentence, supporting sentences (with details, examples and explanations) and concluding sentence.
 2. Germane ideas: stays on topic & every sentence is relevant.
 3. Logical organisation: time, space, importance, general to specific, argument and counter argument, and enumeration (similarities, differences, problems, advantages, benefits etc.)
- Transition: Transition words
- Types of paragraph: purpose

