

Advanced and post Reading Material
English for professional purposes I (BELH 2003)
MODULE I: Jumbled Paragraph

Para jumbles refer to jumbled paragraphs where the sentences, phrases, or words are incorrect. The task is to rearrange them logically to form a coherent paragraph.

Below are some methods or strategies to solve para jumbles with high accuracy:

1- Identify the Opening Sentence:

The first sentence typically introduces a topic, and it is often independent of any other sentence. It may define, explain, or present the main subject of the paragraph.

Technique:

- Look for sentences that introduce an idea or concept.

- Avoid beginning sentences with pronouns such as "he," "she," or "they," as well as transitional phrases like "however" or "but," since these are typically used after an introductory statement.

Example:

1. He was not only a poet but also a social activist.
2. Therefore, his writings were always focused on injustice and inequality.
3. John Keats is one of the most celebrated English poets.
4. Despite his short life, his impact on literature was profound.

Here, sentence 3 introduces the topic (John Keats) and will be the first in the sequence.

2- Find the Closing Sentence

The closing sentence typically summarizes the main idea or provides a conclusion to the

paragraph.

Technique:

- Look for a sentence that wraps up the discussion.

- It may restate the main point or provide a final thought, conclusion, or result.

Example:

1. The organization has been working tirelessly for decades.
2. Numerous volunteers have contributed to its growth.
3. It has improved the lives of countless individuals.
4. Today, it stands as a beacon of hope for many communities.

Sentence 4 concludes the paragraph by summarizing the organization's current status and its impact.

3- Identify Transition Words like "however," "therefore," "but," and "because" indicate logical flow between sentences. These sentences cannot be the first and usually link ideas from the previous sentences.

Technique:

- Look for transition words or conjunctions to link sentences logically.

- These words often provide hints about the flow of thought, especially when opposing ideas or conclusions are involved.

Example:

1. He loved experimenting with different Flavors in his kitchen.

2. However, not all of his dishes were well-received.

3. He was passionate about cooking from a young age.

4. Sometimes, his recipes turned out to be a complete disaster.

In this case, sentence 2 starts with "However," so it must follow a positive sentence (either 1 or 3). The correct sequence would be 3-1-2-4.

4- Look for Pronouns and Nouns
Sentences containing pronouns like "he," "she," "they," "it," and "these" usually refer back to a noun introduced in a previous sentence. These pronouns can't appear in the first sentence because they need an antecedent.

Technique:

- Identify which sentences introduce proper nouns, names, or subjects.
- Sentences with pronouns usually follow sentences where the person or object is first introduced.

Example:

1. They discussed this in great detail during the meeting.

2. The committee was divided on the issue of budget allocation.

3. In the end, they reached a consensus.

4. Some members were strongly opposed to the proposal.

The correct sequence here is 2-1-4-3, as the "committee" (in sentence 2) is referred to by the pronoun "they" (in sentence 1).

5- Look for Cause and Effect

Some sentences naturally lead to others due to cause-and-effect relationships. Phrases like "as

a result," "therefore," and "because" often indicate such relationships.

Technique:

- Identify cause-effect connectors that signal a dependency between sentences.
- Arrange the sentences so that the cause comes before the effect.

Example:

1. Due to the heavy rains, many flights were cancelled.

2. Passengers were stranded at the airport for hours.

3. Airlines arranged for refreshments to ease their discomfort.

4. As a result, tempers flared, and some passengers became impatient.

Here, the cause ("heavy rains" in sentence 1) leads to the effect ("flights were cancelled"), and the sequence of events follows logically: 1-2-4-3.

6- Chronological Order

Some paragraphs describe events in a sequence of time. When solving such para-jumbles, identifying time markers (e.g., dates, months, time references like "before," "after") helps in determining the right order.

Technique:

- Look for chronological indicators like specific years, "later," "earlier," or "next."
- Arrange the sentences in the order of time progression.

Example:

1. In 2020, the company launched its first eco-friendly product line.

2. By 2021, it had expanded its offerings to include reusable packaging.

3. In the first year, sales were modest but grew steadily.

4. Today, the brand is known for its commitment to sustainability.

The timeline would dictate the order:
1-3-2-4.

7- Look for Logical Pairing (Block Building)

Certain sentences naturally belong together, either because they continue a line of thought or refer to the same idea. Identifying these pairs can help you narrow down the correct order.

Technique:

- Look for sentences that seem to follow directly after one another.
- Group them into smaller chunks and arrange them within those blocks.

Example:

1. His inventions changed the way we communicate today.

2. Alexander Graham Bell was an extraordinary inventor.

3. One of his most famous inventions was the telephone.

4. He continued to innovate until the end of his life.

In this case, sentences 2-3 form a logical pair since they introduce and then describe Bell's invention. The correct sequence is 2-3-1-4.

8- Elimination Method

If you're unsure of the entire sequence, try eliminating sentences that clearly do not fit at the beginning or end. This narrows down the choices.

Technique:

- Eliminate any sentence that can't logically be the first or last.

- Focus on sentences that clearly belong somewhere in the middle.

Example:

1. The forest was filled with the sounds of chirping birds and rustling leaves.

2. The sky was a bright shade of blue, and a light breeze blew through the trees.

3. It was the perfect setting for a nature walk.

4. He picked up his backpack and set off on the trail.

Sentence 4 can't be the first because it refers to "he," so it must come after sentences that describe the setting. By elimination, 3-1-2-4 is the correct sequence.