

# EnglishConnect 3: Strategy Instruction

## Writing

### Paragraphs

Below is an example paragraph. Review the information about paragraph formatting. Then compare the original paragraph with the corrected paragraph.

#### Original Paragraph

##### My best friend

My classmate's name is Anna. She is from Mexico City. She is the only daughter in her family. She lives in Calle 5 de Mayo 706.

She loves to learn English. She has already 8 months learning English by online Pathway program. She served her mission in Veracruz, Mexico. She now is a homemaker. She worked as a teacher about 13 years in the MTC. Now she has planned to move to Australia in order to improve her lifestyle.

I love Laura because she is a good friend of mine. She has many qualities for example she is good to listen me.

**The first letter of each word in a title is capitalized. The title is centered above the paragraph.** *The title in the example paragraph is not correctly capitalized. It should be "My Best Friend." The is correctly centered.*

**A paragraph is focused on one main idea, which is stated in a topic sentence. The topic sentence is usually the first sentence. The topic states the topic and an idea, attitude, or opinion about the topic. This is called the controlling idea.** *The example paragraph does not have a topic sentence. It begins with a detail not a main idea.*

**Paragraphs consist of several sentences and each paragraph is about the same length.** *The example paragraph has a very short paragraph, a longer paragraph, and then a short paragraph. It should all be one paragraph. It does not have enough information for three paragraphs.*

**The first sentence of a paragraph is usually indented five spaces. Then every sentence follows without break.** *The example paragraph is not indented. The sentences are not written as a single paragraph.*

#### Corrected Paragraph

## My Best Friend

My classmate, Anna [this is the topic], has accomplished many things in her life [this is the controlling idea]. She loves to learn English. She has been learning English for 8 months in the online Pathway program. She served her mission in Veracruz, Mexico. She also worked as a teacher about 13 years in the new MTC. She now is a homemaker and takes care of her husband and two boys. Anna is a good example to me because she achieves her goals. [All of the sentences in the paragraph talk about what Anna has accomplished.]

## Punctuation and Spacing

Always end a sentence with a period.

Incorrect

I want to go shopping this weekend My husband will be busy at work, and won't be able to go with me

Correct

I want to go shopping this weekend. My husband will be busy at work, and won't be able to go with me.

Never put a period at the end of a title.

Incorrect

My Best Friend.

Correct

My Best Friend

Never put a space in front of a punctuation mark. Put one space after punctuation (commas, periods, question marks, etc.).

Incorrect

I want to go shopping this weekend . My husband will be busy at work , and won't be able to go with me .

Correct

I want to go shopping this weekend. My husband will be busy at work, and won't be able to go with me.

Always capitalize the word "I."

Incorrect.

Tomorrow, i will go shopping.

Correct

Tomorrow, I will go shopping.

## Run-On Sentences & Comma Splices

A run-on sentence is two complete sentences that run together and have no punctuation or combining words between the two sentences.

A comma splice is two complete sentences incorrectly joined with a comma.

Run-on:	The winter is almost over I can't wait for spring
Correction:	The winter is almost over. I can't wait for spring.
Comma Splice:	My brother is very competent in business, he's good to his family
Correction:	My brother is very competent, and he's good to his family.

Run-on sentences and comma splices are common errors and also serious errors. Check for them in your writing. You may not find all of them, but the more you can correct, the more clearly you will communicate.

The following sentence is a comma splice. To correct this error, start a new sentence for each subject (the subject is what the sentence is about), or combine ideas with clauses or connecting words.

My classmate, Erika, is 33 years old, she is the youngest daughter of her family, she is from Mexico City, she belongs to LDS church, she lives in Azcapotzalco.

Correct sentence structure.

My classmate, Erika, is 33 years old. She is the youngest daughter of her family. She is from Mexico City. She belongs to the LDS church. She lives in Azcapotzalco.

Correct sentence structure with adjective clauses and connecting words.

My classmate, Erika, who is the youngest daughter in her family, is 33 years old. She is from Mexico City. She belongs to the LDS church and she lives in Azcapotzalco.

There are a variety of ways to combine ideas into a single sentence. Start with writing simple sentences with a subject and a verb. Then combine your sentences using coordinating conjunctions – *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, *so*. As you progress in your knowledge of writing and grammar, you can use different types of clauses within your sentences.

For more practice, go to [comma splices](#) and [run-on sentences](#).