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Department of English

Level : First Year

Module: Reading Texts

Types of Paragraphs

1. Descriptive Paragraph

Purpose: Paints a **vivid picture** with **sensory details**.

Examples:

"The old barn sagged under the weight of years, its red paint peeling like sunburned skin. The air inside hung heavy with the musty scent of hay and damp wood. Rusty tools leaned against splintered walls, while a lone sparrow flitted through a broken window, its chirps echoing faintly."

"The city skyline glittered at dusk, a mosaic of glass and steel piercing the violet sky. Car horns blared below, blending with the sharp tang of street food wafting from vendors. A cool breeze rustled the leaves of a lone tree on the sidewalk."

"The desert stretched endlessly, a sea of golden dunes rippling under a relentless sun. Heat shimmered in waves, distorting the horizon, while the sand crunched dryly beneath boots. A faint whiff of sagebrush lingered, carried by a whispering wind."

2. Narrative Paragraph

Purpose: Tells a **story** or sequence of events.

Examples:

"Lena woke to a power outage, the silence of her apartment eerie without the hum of electronics. She fumbled for a candle, lit it, and watched shadows dance on the walls. By morning, the lights flickered back on, but she'd already decided to keep a flashlight handy from then on."

"On his first day at the bakery, Tom spilled a sack of flour across the counter. His boss laughed, handed him a broom, and showed him how to knead dough instead. By closing time, Tom had baked his first loaf, grinning as it came out golden and warm."

"During the hike, Sam tripped over a root and tumbled down a small hill. He landed in a patch of mud, laughing despite the mess. His friends hauled him up, and they finished the trail muddy but triumphant, vowing to retell the story at every campfire."

3. Descriptive Narration Paragraph

Purpose: Combines **storytelling** with rich **sensory details**.

Examples:

"The carnival rolled into town at midnight, its lights twinkling like fallen stars against the black sky. Ella slipped out her window, drawn by the distant calliope's tune and the sweet scent of cotton candy. As she approached, the Ferris wheel loomed overhead, creaking softly, and she joined the crowd, her heart racing with the thrill of sneaking away."

"Thunder rumbled as Kai dashed through the forest, rain plastering his hair to his face. The trees towered above, their wet leaves slapping his arms, while the earthy smell of soaked soil filled his lungs. He reached the cabin just as lightning split the sky, panting and relieved to find shelter."

"The attic door groaned as Maya pushed it open, dust swirling in the beam of her flashlight. Old trunks lined the walls, their leather cracked and faded, and the air tasted stale, like forgotten time. She knelt by a chest, lifted the lid, and gasped at the glint of a silver locket nestled inside."

4. Expository Paragraph

Purpose: **Explains** or **informs** with facts and logic.

Examples:

"Bees play a crucial role in pollination, supporting ecosystems and agriculture. They transfer pollen between flowers, enabling plants to produce fruit and seeds. A single hive can pollinate acres of crops, making them vital to food production despite their small size."

"The water cycle keeps Earth's water in constant motion. It begins with evaporation from oceans and lakes, turning liquid into vapor. Clouds form, then release rain or snow, which flows back to the sea through rivers—a process that has sustained life for millennia."

"Solar panels generate electricity by capturing sunlight with photovoltaic cells. These cells convert photons into energy through a semiconductor material, typically silicon. This clean power source reduces reliance on fossil fuels and cuts greenhouse gas emissions."

Expository Paragraphs by Method

1. Division (Breaking a Topic into Parts)

Purpose: Divides a broad subject into categories or components for clarity.

Examples:

"A balanced diet consists of several key food groups, each contributing to health. Carbohydrates, like bread and rice, provide energy for daily activities. Proteins, found in meat

and beans, repair tissues and build muscle. Fats, such as those in nuts and oils, support brain function, while vitamins and minerals from fruits and vegetables boost immunity and bone strength."

"A smartphone can be divided into essential hardware components. The processor acts as the brain, handling tasks and speed. The screen displays visuals, often with touch capability. The battery powers the device, determining usage time, and the camera captures photos, varying in quality across models."

"Music genres split into distinct styles based on sound and origin. Rock relies on electric guitars and driving rhythms, born from 1950s rebellion. Jazz flows with improvisation and brass, rooted in early 20th-century America. Pop leans on catchy hooks and broad appeal, while classical builds on orchestral complexity from centuries past."

2. Definition (Explaining What Something Is)

Purpose: Defines a term or concept and expands on its meaning.

Examples:

"Resilience is the ability to recover from setbacks or stress. It's not about avoiding hardship but adapting to it—like a tree bending in a storm without breaking. For instance, someone resilient might lose a job yet quickly seek new opportunities, drawing on inner strength and optimism."

"Democracy means rule by the people, typically through elected representatives. It's a system where citizens vote to shape laws and leadership, as seen in annual elections. Beyond voting, it implies freedoms like speech and fairness, distinguishing it from autocracy."

"Gravity is the force that pulls objects toward each other, keeping life grounded. It's what holds the moon near Earth and makes an apple fall from a tree. Scientifically, it's a universal law, measured as an acceleration that keeps planets orbiting stars."

3. Cause (Explaining Why Something Happens)

Purpose: Identifies the reasons behind a situation or event.

Examples:

"Coral reefs bleach due to rising ocean temperatures. Warmer waters stress the tiny algae living in corals, which provide their color and food. When stressed, these algae leave, turning the coral white—a process driven by climate change and human activity like burning fossil fuels."

"Traffic jams form because of bottlenecks on roads. Too many cars entering a narrow stretch, like during rush hour, slow movement to a crawl. Construction or accidents worsen it, as lanes close and drivers merge, creating delays."

"Plants grow tall because they compete for sunlight. In dense forests, each one stretches upward to catch rays needed for photosynthesis. This race for light shapes their height and structure, favoring those that reach the canopy first."

4. Effect (Explaining the Results of Something)

Purpose: Describes the outcomes or consequences of a cause.

Examples:

"Regular exercise improves overall health in several ways. Muscles grow stronger, reducing injury risk, while the heart pumps more efficiently, lowering blood pressure. Mental clarity sharpens too, as endorphins lift mood, making it a simple fix for body and mind."

"Air pollution harms cities over time. Smog blankets skylines, cutting visibility and making breathing harder for residents. It also corrodes buildings, raises healthcare costs, and drives wildlife away, leaving urban areas grayer and less vibrant."

"Learning a second language boosts brain function. Memory improves from recalling new words, and problem-solving sharpens as the mind toggles between systems. Studies show it even delays age-related decline, keeping cognition flexible longer."

These examples showcase how expository paragraphs can be developed using division (parts), definition (meaning), cause (reasons), and effect (results). Each method organizes information logically to inform or explain. If you'd like more examples or want these applied to a specific topic, let me know! Which method do you find most useful?

5. Comparison and Contrast Paragraph

Purpose: Highlights **similarities** and **differences**.

Examples:

"Trains and buses both serve public transit, but their experiences differ. Trains glide on fixed tracks, offering smoother, faster rides over long distances. Buses, however, weave through streets, stopping more often but reaching places rails can't. Both are affordable, yet trains feel roomier while buses are more flexible."

"Coffee and tea warm the soul, yet they cater to different tastes. Coffee hits hard with its bold, bitter kick, waking you up fast. Tea, subtler and often floral, soothes over time. Both have caffeine, but coffee's jolt suits mornings, while tea fits quiet afternoons."

"Laptops and tablets handle daily tasks, though their strengths vary. Laptops pack power for heavy work like editing or coding, with full keyboards for typing. Tablets shine in portability

and touch-screen ease, perfect for browsing or sketching. Both connect online, but laptops lean toward productivity, tablets toward convenience."