



Tikrit University

College of Education for Women

English Department Subject : writing in paragraph

1st year

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Using time expressions

Language focus.' Using time expressions

One way to order two events is to use after, before, or when.

After shows the first event

I played football) after school. (school happened first; not football)

After school, I played football.

Before shows the second event:

I couldn't play the guitar before I took lessons. (lessons happened second)

Before I took lessons, I couldn't play the guitar.

When shows that the first event happened just before the second event:

I told him the news when he called. (he called first; then I told him the news)

When he called, I told him the news.

Note: When after, before, or when begin a sentence, use a comma after the event

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Writing focus: Narrative Photographs

Narratives tell stories. Everyone has read Narratives, watched them on television or at the cinema, or heard them from other people. A narrative paragraph tells a story or describes an event.

The paragraph *Sleeping in a Farmhouse* is a narrative about two boys on holiday. In the story their beds move in the middle of the night, and they don't know how it happened.

The events (stages of the story) are told in a logical order

A question at the beginning of your paragraph can encourage your reader to think deeply about your topic. Questions can be used to start paragraphs about a difficult decision, opinions, or personal feelings. In the opening paragraph in this unit, the writer asked, *Do you think it's OK to tell your best friend's secret?* This question helps the reader to think about the topic of secrets and telling them.

However, questions can be difficult to use effectively. The best questions are ones that help the reader to focus on and think about your topic. You need to imagine your audience [the people who will read your writing] and imagine how they might answer the question,

- o Will the answer be too easy or too obvious?

- . Could the reader give an answer very different from yours?

If the writer of *Telling a Secret* had asked *Have you ever told your best friend's secret?* or *Have you ever had a friend with anorexia?*, the reader might have answered in his / her mind, *No*; and then lost interest in the topic.

If the writer had asked, *Do you know what anorexia is?*, the reader might have answered *Of course* and thought that the paragraph topic would be too simple.

Put it together

| | Choose one of these topics.

- a. A coincidence
- b. A strange expedience
- c. A funny story

| 2 Choose one of the methods of brainstorming you have practiced, and brainstorm the story

. making a list

a making a word map

. free writing

a discussion

| 3 Edit your brainstorming.

a Cross out ideas you don't want to use and add more ideas if necessary.

o Share your brainstorming with a partner, and explain your choices.

| 4 Write a paragraph about your topic and then check your writing,

| 5 Exchange papers with a partner. Include your brainstorming.

. Fill out the Peer Review Form on page 108.

. Talk with your partner and go over each form.

| 6 Work with a new partner. Tell him / her about the story that you read in exercise 15

above. Listen to your partner tell someone else's story.

| 7 Read your paragraph again.

o Think about the comments from your partner

a Make any additions or changes to your paragraph that would make it stronger or more interesting.

| 1 Hand in the second draft of your paragraph to your teacher.

You have already used discussion for brainstorming in Unit 6. Talking with just one person can also help you think of ideas for writing because that person can ask you focused questions about your topic. Your partner might ask you questions that begin with words like what, why, how long, when and so on.

For example, when the writer of *Telling a Secret* told her partner about her difficult decision, her partner asked her questions such as *When did this happen? How did you find out about her problem? Why didn't you tell her parents immediately? What happened next? How did you feel? Do you think you made the right decision?*

To use pair interviews effectively, follow these steps:

a Tell your partner as much as you can about your topic.

. when you run out of things to say, your partner will ask you questions to help you continue,

. Write down the ideas that you talk about.

You won't use all of the ideas for your paragraph. However, it's always better to have too many ideas and then edit them.