

Unit 1

One Paragraph that Includes a Story

Overview: In this unit, you will . . .

- ◆ practice writing one paragraph;
- ◆ practice writing topic sentences;
- ◆ put a short story in the paragraph;
- ◆ focus on simple and compound sentences and transitional expressions (such as “however” and “moreover”);
- ◆ read, discuss and paraphrase information about two passages, “Brad Pitt Didn’t Know What to Do” and “Teenage Prisoner.”

⌘ Part 1 First Draft: Working with a Model and Starting to Write



The Purpose of Part 1

- You will work with a model paragraph that is an example of a paragraph that you will write in this unit. You will also choose a topic and write your first draft.
- In Exercise 1, you will first listen to the model paragraph and then fill in the blanks of a skeleton of the essay. This exercise will help you focus on the features of the paragraph. This exercise looks easy, but it will help you do Exercise 2.
- In Exercise 2, you will paraphrase the same paragraph. In other words, you will tell as much information from the paragraph as you can. This exercise will help you understand the features of a paragraph, and it will help you activate some new (or not so new) vocabulary.
- In Exercise 3, you will choose a topic and write a first draft.

Note to the teacher:

One purpose of this textbook is to help students develop the skill of paraphrasing. Learning how to paraphrase involves a process that takes a lot of practice, a certain command of syntax, and a vocabulary that is large enough to include some synonyms. Teachers using this text may find that the paraphrased prose that their students write in the early units looks somewhat similar to the original versions they are paraphrasing. This can be expected in the early stages of developing this complex skill. It is thus recommended that teachers focus on the students’ organization and control of grammar in their early

attempts at paraphrasing and that teachers not take on the burden of trying to “teach” students how to make their paraphrases more academically sophisticated. As students progress from the early units to the later ones, through continual practice, they should rise naturally to the challenge. By the time students reach the later units, they should display a clear grasp of what paraphrasing entails and be able to do it with the confidence and expertise that their intermediate-level command of English allows.


L 1-1 Listening to a Model Paragraph

Exercise 1



- 1) Close your book and listen to “The Cell Phone.”
- 2) After you listen, open your book and choose the words from the box to complete the skeleton paragraph below.

- cause problems
- and got the phone
- system naturally
- present and put
- number, and she heard
- for Rachel
- but it was gone
- on top of
- not to operate

 The listening script is in the back of the book on page 215.



L 1-1 The Cell Phone *(from a news article)*

Dogs often _____ . Rachel received a cell phone for Christmas. She opened the _____ the cell phone under the Christmas tree. Later, she tried to find the cell phone, _____ . She looked everywhere for it. Finally, she called the telephone company _____ number for the cell phone. Rachel dialed the _____ the phone ringing from her sleeping dog, Charlie. However, Charlie was not lying _____ the phone. Actually, he ate the phone. Rachel quickly took Charlie to the vet. (A vet is an animal doctor.) The vet decided _____ . He told her to wait 24 hours. In 24 hours, the phone passed out of Charlie’s _____ . This dog caused a big expense _____ .

Exercise 2



- 1) Read the paragraph, “The Cell Phone,” in Exercise 1 on page 3.
- 2) *Without looking at it again*, write the ideas from the paragraph. Use your own words and style.
- 3) The key words in the box below might help you remember the details. You can use these words if you want to.

(This is not a memory exercise. Write as much as you can remember, but don't worry if you do not remember everything. The more you write, the more your teacher can help you with your writing skills.)

The Cell Phone *(from a news article)*

Key Words to Help You Write

- problems
- Rachel
- cell phone
- was gone
- Christmas tree
- telephone company
- her sleeping dog, Charlie
- vet, an animal doctor
- not to operate
- 24 hours
- passed out of Charlie's system

(Write on other paper.)

Preparation for Writing Your Own Paragraph

Exercise 3



- 1) To prepare to write your own paragraph, choose one of the topics in the box below.
- 2) Think about some details about the topic. They can be true or imaginary.
- 3) Write a brief first draft of a paragraph. Keep this paragraph because you will continue to work on it in Exercise 37 on page 29.

Paragraph Topics

- Tell about an experience that you (or someone else) had with a pet.
- Tell about something that you (or someone else) did that was foolish.
- Tell about an interesting or surprising experience that happened to someone in your family.

The Purpose of the First Draft

In the first draft, you start thinking about the ideas that you want to explain in your paragraph. It's not necessary to spend a lot of time thinking about the details or grammar. After writing your first draft, you will practice some ways to improve your paragraph when you write the second draft.

⌘ Part 2 Content: Developing Your Ideas for the Paragraph



The Purpose of Part 2

You will practice some techniques that you can use to improve the topic sentences and to give you some ideas about adding details to your first draft.

L 1-2 Listening Model Paragraph

Exercise 4



- 1) Close your book and listen to “A Man Needing Help.” Ignore *S*, *V*, and *AV*. You will use them in Exercise 17 on page 13.
- 2) After you listen, open your book and choose the words from the box to complete the paragraph below.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| • and promised to mail | • , so I offered | • was from California, and |
| • , so he had no money | • , <u>and</u> I had | • did not recognize |
| • , but he didn't know how | • , and he | • , and this was the first |

The listening script is in the back of the book on page 215.

L 1-2 A Man Needing Help (*a true story*)

^S Helping someone is not always a good idea. I lived in Chicago _____
^V
this experience with a man in distress. The man was crying. He seemed to be lost _____
^{S AV V}
_____ to help him. He told me his story. He was
from California _____ time
for his family to visit Illinois. He put his wife on a train to Peoria. Soon he realized
something. She had his wallet _____
at all. He needed to get to Peoria _____
to get there. I wanted to be a hero, so I gave him \$20, my home address, and directions
to Peoria. He was very happy _____
_____ me the money soon. However, the money never
came. Seven months later, I recognized someone on a corner. It was the same man _____
_____ was crying. I walked up to him. He _____
_____ me. He told me his story again. He _____
_____ this was the first time for his family to visit Illinois. Next
time, I will be more careful about helping a stranger.

Listen to and Paraphrase a Model Paragraph

The purpose of this assignment is to paraphrase the model paragraph.
This model will help you review the form of a paragraph.

Exercise 5



- 1) Look briefly at the words in the box below.
- 2) Close your book and listen to “A Man Needing Help” twice.
- 3) After you listen, open your book and write as much as you can remember in one paragraph.
- 4) The key words in the box might help you remember the details. You can use these words in your paragraph if you want to.
- 5) Your teacher might re-read or re-play the passage after a few minutes.
- 6) Compare your paragraph with a partner.

A Man Needing Help *(a true story)*

Key Words to Help You Write

• helping someone	• Chicago	• a man in distress	• lost
• California	• first time for his family to visit Illinois	• on a train to Peoria	
• wallet	• \$20	• my home address and directions	
• promised	• seven months later	• recognize	• did not recognize
• more careful			

(Write on other paper.)

Topic Sentences

Exercise 6



- 1) Look again at the paragraphs in Exercise 1 on page 3 and Exercise 4 on page 5.
- 2) Write the topic sentence (the first sentence) of each paragraph.

1. The Cell Phone (Exercise 1)

Topic sentence: _____

2. A Man Needing Help (Exercise 4)

Topic sentence: _____

Exercise 7



Choose the topic sentences from the box and fill in the first sentence of each paragraph.

- My mother is a very intelligent woman.
- Mike Morgan's memory makes him a great policeman.
- Listening to Mozart can help students pass their tests.

1.

_____ . He often studies pictures of criminals. Last week, he was walking down the street. He saw a man, Steve Dones, and recognized his face from a picture. He remembered seeing that picture two years ago. Mike said, "Hey, Steve." Steve turned around, so Mike arrested him. *(from a news article)*



2.

_____ . Most mothers ask their children about their day at school. After school, a typical mother will ask her children, "What did you learn in school today?" However, my mother was different. She always asked me, "Did you ask a good question in school today?"

3.

_____ . Researchers did an experiment with two groups of students. One group listened to Mozart for 10 minutes before a test, and the other group didn't. The "Mozart" group performed better. For the experiment, researchers chose music that had from 55 to 70 beats per minute. That is the same as your pulse rate at rest. Your pulse rate will automatically slow down to the beats of music. This type of music helped students feel calm. That is probably why the "Mozart" group performed better on their tests. *(from a news article)*

Exercise 8



The lists below are mixed-up sentences from four paragraphs. (All the information in the paragraphs is from news articles.)

- 1) Write **Topic** in front of the sentence that would be the topic sentence (in other words, the first sentence) in each.
- 2) Write the number **2** next to the second sentence, number **3** next to the third, etc.

1.

- 4 • Virgin Atlantic and Cathay Pacific plan to begin adding similar email service this fall.
- 2 • Since late April, Singapore Airlines has allowed passengers to send email.
- Topic • Airline travelers can now send email during flights.
- 3 • However, this service is available only between Los Angeles and Singapore at this time.

2.

- _____ • On the other hand, when they are passengers, men and women die in car crashes at an equal rate.
- _____ • It is not surprising that, in the U.S., half of all drivers are males and half females.
- _____ • However, 73% of drivers killed in car crashes were men.
- _____ • In other words, male drivers are more likely to die in a car accident than female drivers.

3.

- _____ • A drug company mistakenly sent a large refund to a customer, and now it wants him to return it.
- _____ • Stoller put the money in his bank account and disappeared.
- _____ • As a result, he sent a letter to the drug company asking them to refund the \$1.99 for the cost of the pills.
- _____ • The police are now looking for him.
- _____ • The company computer made a mistake and sent him \$98,002.
- _____ • Barry Stoller bought some sleeping pills, but they didn't help him sleep.

4.

- _____ • Researchers suggest the reason for this is that dieting causes stress.
- _____ • If she diets more often, she's four times more likely to take up the habit.
- _____ • Teenage girls who diet are more likely to smoke.
- _____ • Stress increases worries about weight, and this leads to more weight-control efforts such as smoking.
- _____ • If a girl diets once a week, she is twice as likely as non-dieters to begin smoking.



⌘ Part 3 Style and Grammar: Improving Your Sentences

The Purpose of Part 3

In this part, you will review and practice some grammar points that are useful for writing essays. The grammar points that you study in this unit are helpful for all the essays that you will write in the future, not just for the assignments in this unit.

Subjects and Verbs

Exercise 9



Choose from the box and fill in each blank with a subject.

hometown

teammates

I

Ken

- _____ is going to Hollywood next month.
- My _____ gets very cold in winter.
- In the morning, _____ always listen to the news on the radio.
- After the game, my _____ went to a pizza restaurant.

Exercise 10



Choose from the box and fill in each blank with a verb.

is

doesn't like

needed

learned

forgot

- Nicolas _____ video games because they are hard to play.
- My brother _____ afraid of bats.
- We _____ to take a map on our trip, so we got lost.
(Note: *to take* is not the verb of the sentence. It is an infinitive.)
- My dog _____ how to chase a ball.
(Note: *to chase* is not the verb of the sentence. It is an infinitive.)
- Anna Maria _____ to change her plane reservations.