

Writing a Paragraph

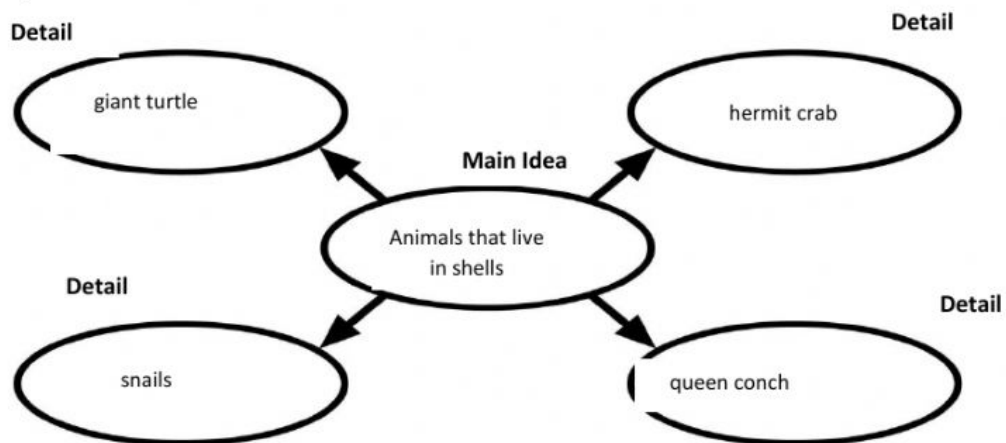
Words come together to make a sentence. Sentences go together to make a paragraph. A **paragraph** is a group of sentences about one main idea, or topic. The topic sentence tells about the main idea. All of the other sentences tell about that main idea.

A paragraph is easy to spot. The first word of a paragraph is indented, or moved in. When you are ready to begin a new main idea, you start a new paragraph.

How will you begin your paragraph? Take the main idea in your paragraph plan. Use it to write a topic sentence. You could write a question: "Did you know that some animals have shells for houses?" You could write a statement: "Three different kinds of animals live in shells."



Look at the plan below. Observe how this student uses his plan to create a paragraph.



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Topic Sentence
Indent → Three different kinds of animals live in shells. The giant turtle carries a house on its back. The tiny snail does the same thing. The queen conch shell grows about 6 to 12 inches. Most unusual of all is the hermit crab. It runs from one shell to another looking for a house.

The other sentences tell about the topic sentence.