

Paragraphs

What is a paragraph?

Paragraphs are used to help the reader to understand what has been written. When the reader moves on to a new paragraph they are moving from one theme to another.

Facts about *paragraphs*

- A group of sentences about the same topic.
- It includes a topic sentence that will indicate to the reader what the paragraph will be about.
- It will have supporting sentences giving detail and evidence to support the idea. (This is the main part of the paragraph.)
- It has an ending sentence to close the paragraph (usually repeating the topic sentence in a different way, expressing your viewpoint, etc.).
- It is easily identified as each new paragraph starts on a new line.
- There are clear links between paragraphs (e.g. firstly, secondly, finally).

Example

The sport of rugby teaches self-discipline. (*Topic sentence*) This is shown by the players being penalised for losing their temper or arguing with the referee. If this behaviour continues after an initial warning, the player maybe sent off for 10 minutes. This means his team will be a player short and the other team may be able to capitalise on this and they often do. (*Supporting sentences*) Learning self-control is an excellent thing for any sportsman. (*Ending sentence*)

Paragraphs

Now mark where the paragraphs should go on the text below. Indicate the start of a new paragraph by using the proof-reading marks **//.**

Extract from 'Grand Designs Magazine', January 2011 -Editor's Welcome

Although this is the January issue, you're probably reading this in early December, which means your thoughts are firmly focused on the upcoming festivities rather than the New Year. Never fear, the team has been thinking about 2011 and the priorities it might throw up for you. First is the imminent VAT increase rise to 20%, a move which will affect all of us but will prove particularly challenging for anyone planning or in the middle of a building project. The advice is to get some advice – Oliver Bennett outlines what you need to know on p113. It may be a cliché but I do feel the need to clear out my cupboards in January and I'm pretty sure it's a psychological drive to declutter my brain and prepare for the year ahead. Lack of space is a constant whine in our family and I wish we'd designed more in situ when we renovated, so I love Grand Guide on p130, which illustrates smart storage ideas to incorporate into your home. There are some truly stunning homes and properties in this issue which should inspire whatever project you're planning for 2011 but when it comes to the critical issue of what you want your new or improved home to look and feel like, do you really know? It's easy to create an anodyne 'show home' space but it takes guts to create an individual home environment that reflects your personality. So that just leaves us with New Year resolutions. Will you move? Get planning permission? Downsize? Upgrade? Or stay where you are and dream? The economic outlook will undoubtedly determine plans for most of us but whatever you do, here's wishing you and yours a happy and healthy 2011.

Bernie Herlihy

Editor