

Academic English: Intermediate

Project Kaisei

- Watch: <https://youtu.be/i8QpPUQzgcl>
- Discuss these questions with your group:
 - According to Mary Crowley, what are the goals of the Project Kaisei expedition?
 - Would you like to participate in an expedition like this? What do you think you could contribute?

On Paragraphs

- Paragraph: a set of sentences that communicate one idea
- Basic unit of all academic writing
- A good paragraph has:
 - A clear topic sentence
 - Enough support (adequate development)
 - Unity
 - Coherence

Topic sentence

- Topic sentence: sentence that tells main idea
- Usually the first sentence is the topic sentence
- All other sentences support the topic.

Specific focus

- Topic sentence must be specific and focused.
 - Tells the reader what the paragraph is about
 - Specific enough to *completely explain*
 - Big enough to say several interesting things

Specific focus

- **Not specific enough**

- What can we learn about inheritance and genes by comparing traits?
- I will write about life in extreme environments.
- I learned something today.
- Do you know Project Kaisei?

Specific focus

- **Too narrow**

- China's population is 1,298,847,624 people.

- Tardigrades can survive temperatures as low as -200°C .

Specific focus

- **Good, clear, and specific**
 - Gregor Mendel discovered two laws that determine how parents pass characteristics to their offspring.
 - The discovery of extremophiles on Earth suggests that life may be possible elsewhere in the solar system.
 - There are many unique animals on the Australian continent.

Paragraph

Topic sentence

There are many unique animals on the Australian continent. For example, the kangaroo is found nowhere else on earth. The kangaroo is a marsupial, which means it is a mammal whose babies are born very small and held in a pouch after birth. Another unique Australian animal is the platypus. The platypus is one of only five mammals that lays eggs. A third unique Australian animal is the koala. Although koalas look like bears, they are actually marsupials, related to kangaroos.

Specific, factual support for the topic

Paragraph

Specific focused idea *General topic*

There are many unique animals on the Australian continent. For example, the kangaroo is found nowhere else on earth. The kangaroo is a marsupial, which means it is a mammal whose babies are born very small and held in a pouch after birth. Another unique Australian animal is the platypus. The platypus is one of only five mammals that lays eggs. A third unique Australian animal is the koala. Although koalas look like bears, they are actually marsupials, related to kangaroos.

Unity: all sentences directly support the topic.

**This looks like a topic sentence, but...
the rest of the sentences are not
related to this topic.**

Japanese food is my favorite kind of food. Mexican food includes tortillas. Also, Mexicans eat salsa, but I don't like salsa. Mongolian food is red (meat) and white (milk). Japanese food has many colors. People say that British food is not good. Why do they say that? My brother's favorite kind of food is French food. But I like Japanese food best.

**A paragraph is a set of sentences
that all relate to one main idea.**

Logical order Paragraph

Transition signals

There are many unique animals on the Australian continent. ¹For example, the kangaroo is found nowhere else on earth. The kangaroo is a marsupial, which means it is a mammal whose babies are born very small and held in a pouch after birth. ²Another unique Australian animal is the platypus. The platypus is one of only five mammals that lays eggs. ³A third unique Australian animal is the koala. Although koalas look like bears, they are actually marsupials, related to kangaroos.

It is clear how all the sentences fit together (coherence).

Key words are repeated

Logical order Paragraph

Transition signals

There are many *unique animals* on the *Australian* continent. ¹For example, the *kangaroo* is found nowhere else on earth. The *kangaroo* is a marsupial, which means it is a mammal whose babies are born very small and held in a pouch after birth. ²Another *unique Australian animal* is the *platypus*. The *platypus* is one of only five mammals that lays eggs. ³A third *unique Australian animal* is the *koala*. Although *koalas* look like bears, they are actually marsupials, related to *kangaroos*.

It is clear how all the sentences fit together (coherence).

Key words are repeated

Logical order

Transition signals

All verbs use
the same tense

There are many unique animals on the Australian continent. ¹For example, the kangaroo is found nowhere else on earth. The kangaroo is a marsupial, which means it is a mammal whose babies are born very small and held in a pouch after birth. ²Another unique Australian animal is the platypus. The platypus is one of only five mammals that lays eggs. ³A third unique Australian animal is the koala. Although koalas look like bears, they are actually marsupials, related to kangaroos.

It is clear how all the sentences fit together (coherence).

Poorly formatted paragraph

Leave
margins
on each
side

Indent the first line.

TOPIC: Australia

There are many ~~strange~~ unique animals on the Australian continent.

The kangaroo is a marsupial, which means it is a mammal whose babies are born very small and held in a pouch after birth.

~~The platypus~~ platypus is one of only five mammals that lays eggs.

Although koalas look like bears, they are actually marsupials, related to kangaroos.

Hand in a clean copy,
with nothing crossed
out, no notes about
writing, and no other
marks on the paper.

*Continue each sentence
after the sentence before.*

Well formatted paragraph

Indented

Margins on each side

↔ There are many unique animals on the Australian continent. For example, the kangaroo is found nowhere else on earth. The kangaroo is a marsupial, which means it is a mammal whose babies are born very small and held in a pouch after birth. Another unique Australian animal is the platypus. The platypus is one of only five mammals that lays eggs. A third unique Australian animal is the koala. Although koalas look like bears, they are actually marsupials, related to kangaroos.

*Clean copy with no
corrections or markings*

Information from sources



- Get **ideas** from books, lectures, other sources.
- Don't take **sentences** or long phrases from those sources *without citing them*.
- **Plagiarism:** take ideas, sentences *without giving credit*
 - No credit: **plagiarism, cheating, stealing**
 - Give credit: engaging with sources; good



Plagiarism

- If you take ideas from a source:
 - Say what the source is
 - Rewrite information in your own English
 - If you copy exact words: *
 - Say what the source is
 - Use quotation marks
- *“I’m not good at English” is **NOT** a reason to copy.

Avoid plagiarism

- Say what the source is.

We can see impact craters on the moon left by objects such as meteorites that crashed there (Bowring et alia 2014, p. 9).

(Bowring et alia 2014, p. 9).

Avoid plagiarism

- Use quotation marks.

Dr. Andrea Neal explained why she is dedicated to keeping the ocean clean when she said, “The ocean is our life source. Not only is it a place where we see enjoyment, where we have fun and love it, but it is where we get our life and where we get our breath from” (Project Kaisei 2009).

Avoid plagiarism

- Use quotation marks & give the source.

Dr. Andrea Neal explained why she is dedicated to keeping the ocean clean when she said, “The ocean is our life source. Not only is it a place where we see enjoyment, where we have fun and love it, but it is where we get our life and where we get our breath from” (Project Kaisei 2009).