



Developing deeper subject knowledge: Unit 8 - How to teach paragraphs

Teaching activities to try

- ▶ Take a short text and chop up each paragraph. Ask children to put the text back together, encouraging them to use the topic sentences and cohesive devices to ensure the whole piece makes sense.
- ▶ Give children a short model text (possibly from a child in the class or a neighbouring class). Ask the children to add a label to explain the purpose of each new paragraph (e.g. to mark a change in person, place, or speaker, etc).
- ▶ Give children a set of paragraphs with the topic sentence missing. Ask the children to write a suitable topic sentence for the supporting details.
- ▶ Whilst analysing a text, ask the children to highlight the cohesive devices being used. How do they help the paragraphs to flow?

Is grouping related material being explicitly taught in year 3?

Is organising paragraphs around a theme being explicitly taught in year 4?

Are children being taught a wider range of cohesive devices in years 5 and 6?

What are the next steps?

Look at the list below and consider how confident you feel about teaching paragraphs on a scale of 1–10. (10 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.)

1. *Grouping related material*
2. *Organising paragraphs around a theme (topic sentences and supporting details)*
3. *Cohesion within paragraphs*
4. *Cohesion across paragraphs*

Planning your next steps

Are children being taught to use the correct tense across their work in year 2?