

Varied Fluency

Step 2: Paragraphs in Fiction

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections [for example, the use of adverbials such as on the other hand, in contrast, or as a consequence], and ellipsis.

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using paragraphs in fiction, including some cohesive devices.

Expected Questions to support using paragraphs in fiction, with multi-clausal sentences and a variety of cohesive devices.

Greater Depth Questions to support using paragraphs in fiction, with extended sentences and multiple examples of cohesive devices.

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Paragraphs in Fiction

Aaren slid deeper into his sleeping bag. It wasn't just because he was cold. He tried to tell himself that the snuffling sound was simply the night wind blowing past the sleds. Each breath, though he tried to be quiet, sounded louder than ever. Even his heart seemed to be beating too loudly in his chest.

Feeling just as scared as Aaren, Karl gripped the pair's only gun close to his chest. He sat up! His nervous ears twitched at every tiny noise outside the tent. He knew that it wasn't only the wind that he could hear.

Over the past few days, they had seen her from time to time. They had spotted her on the top of an icy ridge and down in the valleys below, but she was always in the distance. They had hoped that she hadn't seen them. Could it be that she had noticed their scent and followed them, leaving pawprints in the snow as she hunted them?

From Aaren's sleeping bag came the sudden sound of a cough. He couldn't hold it in any longer. The snuffling noise stopped abruptly. Then, it began to move closer.

1a. True or false? Paragraph one focuses on a character called Karl.



VF

2a. Has paragraph three started because of a change of time or character?



VF

3a. Underline the phrase in paragraph two which shows you the focus has changed to a new character.



VF

4a. The author adds the sentence below to the end of the story:

Meanwhile, Karl remained frozen with the gun still in his hands.

Where should the sentence go? Tick one box.



start a new paragraph

join the final paragraph

VF

Paragraphs in Fiction

Maya gasped as she squeezed her body through the narrow vent. For one horrendous moment, she thought that she was going to get stuck. She had carefully planned this escape but that did not mean it was going to be easy.

Outside the force shield, Kona waited on her hoverbike. She was safe here as she was out of range of the scanners. She looked at the timer in her helmet. Maya had one minute left.

“She’s stuck... She’s been caught... She got her timings wrong for the laser gates...” As the timer ticked on, thoughts buzzed through Kona’s mind like flies. So many things could have gone wrong. 5... 4... 3...

From inside the force shield, the main gate exploded suddenly. Through the fireball, Maya appeared. She was looking rather pleased with herself.

1b. True or false? Paragraph one focuses on a character called Maya.



VF

2b. Has paragraph four started because of a change of time or location?



VF

3b. Underline the phrase in paragraph two which shows you the focus has changed to a new location.



VF

4b. The author adds the sentence below to the end of the story:

Her mission was complete.

Where should the sentence go? Tick one box.



start a new paragraph

join the final paragraph

VF

Paragraphs in Fiction

Aaren burrowed deeper into his sleeping bag, but it wasn't because he was cold. He tried to convince himself that the snuffling sound was just the night wind rustling equipment on the sleds. His breaths, despite his best efforts, sounded louder than ever and even his heart seemed to be thumping too noisily in his chest.

Just as fearful, Karl gripped the pair's only gun tightly to his chest and sat upright, his nervous ears twitching at every tiny noise outside the tent. It wasn't just the wind – he was certain of that.

Over the past few days, they had seen her occasionally on the top of icy ridges or as a distant speck at the end of their binoculars. They had hoped that she hadn't seen them. Had she caught their scent and followed it, replacing their sled tracks with heavy pawprints as she hunted them down?

From Aaren's sleeping bag came the sudden sound of a muffled cough that he could no longer hold inside. The snuffling stopped abruptly. Aaren held his breath. Almost at once, the snuffling started up again and headed in his direction.

5a. True or false? Paragraph one focuses on time.



VF

6a. Has paragraph three started because of a change of time, location or character?



VF

7a. Find and copy the phrase in paragraph two which shows you the focus has changed to a new character.



VF

8a. The author adds the sentence below to the end of the story:

Karl's hand shook as it gripped the gun tightly and it occurred to him that he had never shot at a living thing before.

Where should the sentence go? Tick one box.



start a new paragraph

join the final paragraph

VF

Paragraphs in Fiction

Maya gasped and wheezed as she struggled to twist her body through the narrow opening of the vent. For one stomach churning moment, she thought she was going to be wedged there forever. She had carefully planned every part of this escape but that did not mean it was all going to go smoothly.

Just outside the force shield, hidden safely from the heat scanners, Kona floated on her hoverbike. She glanced at the timer in her helmet. The display informed her that Maya had just over one minute left.

“She’s trapped... She’s been recaptured... She got her timings wrong for the laser gates...” As the timer ticked steadily on, thoughts buzzed through Kona’s brain like lights flickering in a dark hallway. So many things could have gone wrong. 5... 4... 3...

Suddenly, from within the confines of the force shield, the main gate exploded. Lit by the ferocious fireball, a triumphant Maya appeared like a phoenix emerging from the flames. She was looking particularly pleased with herself this time.

5b. True or false? Paragraph one focuses on a character.



VF

6b. Has paragraph four started because of a change of time, location or character?



VF

7b. Find and copy the phrase in paragraph two which shows you the focus has changed to a new location.



VF

8b. The author adds the sentence below to the end of the story:

Her mission was complete and she was thrilled to be heading to the rendezvous point with Kona.

Where should the sentence go? Tick one box.



start a new paragraph

join the final paragraph

VF

Paragraphs in Fiction

Aaren burrowed deeper into the false security of his sleeping bag and tried desperately to convince himself that the snuffling sound creeping into his ears was simply the night wind rustling equipment on the sleds. His anxious breaths, in spite of his best efforts, rasped loudly and even his heart seemed to be pounding too noisily in his chest.

Equally unsettled, Karl clutched the pair's solitary rifle tightly to his chest and sat bolt upright, his jittery ears twitching at every miniscule noise outside the tent. It wasn't just the wind – he was certain of that.

For several days prior to this night, they had observed her fleetingly atop barren ridges or as a seemingly unthreatening speck at the end of their binoculars. They had hoped with all their might that she had not detected them, but evidently that was not the case. Had she caught their scent and followed it, erasing their sled tracks with forceful pawprints as she pursued them hungrily?

From deep within the cocoon of Aaren's sleeping bag came the sudden, unmistakable sound of a stifled cough that he could no longer hold inside. The snuffling outside stopped abruptly. Aaren held his breath. Without delay, the snuffling started up again and headed in his direction.

9a. Is the primary focus of paragraph one a character, location or time?



VF

10a. What is the main reason for starting paragraph three?



VF

11a. Which cohesive device shows you that there has been a change in character from paragraph one to paragraph two?



VF

12a. The author adds the sentence below to the end of the story:

Karl, who had been frozen in his upright position up until this moment, slowly lowered the rifle and pointed it shakily towards the flap of the tent.

Where should the sentence go? Tick one box.

start a new paragraph

join the final paragraph



VF

Paragraphs in Fiction

Maya exhaled with force as she wriggled and writhed, struggling to force her torso through the tapered opening of the vent. It would all be for nothing if she got herself trapped here now! She had meticulously planned every portion of this daring escape, but that did not mean it was all going to be plain sailing.

Beyond the boundaries of the compound's force shield, obscured from the temperature scanners by her cloaking device, Kona floated on her hoverbike. Where was she? The display in her helmet warned her that Maya had barely a minute remaining.

"She's cornered... She's been recaptured... She calculated the timings incorrectly for the laser gates..." As the timer ticked on relentlessly, worries whirred in Kona's brain like lights flickering in a dim hallway. Countless things could have gone wrong and right now Kona could think of about twenty. 5... 4... 3...

Just then, from within the confines of the compound, the heavy, wooden security gate exploded into a million pieces. Lit by the ferocious fireball, a triumphant Maya appeared like a phoenix emerging from the flames. At once, a slow smile began to spread across her face.

9b. Is the primary focus of paragraph one a character, location or time?



VF

10b. What is the main reason for starting paragraph four?



VF

11b. Which cohesive device shows you that there has been a change of location from paragraph one to paragraph two?



VF

12b. The author adds the sentence below to the end of the story:

After much careful planning, she had completed the mission unscathed and was elated at the prospect of heading to the rendezvous point with Kona.

Where should the sentence go? Tick one box.

start a new paragraph

join the final paragraph



VF

Varied Fluency Paragraphs in Fiction

Developing

- 1a. **False, the character is called Aaren.**
- 2a. **time**
- 3a. **Feeling just as scared as Aaren...**
- 4a. **New paragraph**

Expected

- 5a. **False, it discusses Aaren's actions.**
- 6a. **time**
- 7a. **Just as fearful...**
- 8a. **New paragraph**

Greater Depth

- 9a. **character**
- 10a. **A change in time (it discusses past events).**
- 11a. **The fronted adverbial 'Equally unsettled...'**
- 12a. **New paragraph**

Varied Fluency Paragraphs in Fiction

Developing

- 1b. **True**
- 2b. **location**
- 3b. **Outside the force shield...**
- 4b. **Join the final paragraph**

Expected

- 5b. **True**
- 6b. **location**
- 7b. **Just outside the force shield...**
- 8b. **Join the final paragraph**

Greater Depth

- 9b. **Character**
- 10b. **A change of location (it has moved to the confines of the compound).**
- 11b. **The prepositional phrase 'Beyond the boundaries of the compound's force shield...'**
- 12b. **Join the final paragraph**