



## Exercise – Structuring a paragraph

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### Introduction

This exercise focuses on organising and building better paragraphs in your assignments. You are required to identify the parts of a paragraph and organise them in a suitable and logical order.

On pages 2-4 there are exercises that require you to identify sentences that correspond with different parts of a paragraph.

Answers are presented on pages 5 and 6.

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### Further information

The Learning Resources Study Hub provides a range of opportunities (such as workshops and drop-ins) for you to enhance your academic skills. For more information visit:  
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## Exercise 1

Read the following paragraph:

It has been argued that children are born with language and have the ability to recognise sounds in their mother tongue. Bailey (2010) claimed that this ability to understand language occurs in the womb during pregnancy. This explains how children learn a language so rapidly during the first few years of life and can respond so quickly to sounds that their parents produce. Similarly Johnson (2011) highlights children's ability to distinguish between sounds in their mother tongue at a very young age. Collectively this would suggest that children are equipped with a set of pre-determined skills that enables them to quickly learn a language.

Which sentence within the paragraph corresponds with each of the following descriptors?

Descriptor	Sentence
Topic sentence	It has been argued that children are born with language and have the ability to recognise sounds in their mother tongue
Supporting information/example	
Explanation/ Elaboration	
Supporting information/example	
Reasoning	

## Exercise 2

The following five sentences form a paragraph. However, they are presented in the wrong order.

- Henderson (2007) claims that, although there is some evidence to support some understanding of sounds, this cannot be understood as language.
- Therefore, the arguments presented suggest that exposure to the language being learned plays a significant role in understanding children's rate of language learning.
- This view is supported by Jones (2008) who highlights the large number of hours children spend listening to their mother tongue before the onset of productive language.
- Despite the well-established view of a language existing before birth, many argue that this cannot explain children's ability to produce sounds in their mother tongue.
- Specifically this author does not follow the idea that language is pre-existing but that children's recognition of sounds may be due to exposure to the mother language in the first months of life

In the following table match each sentence with the corresponding paragraph descriptor:

Descriptor	Sentence
Topic sentence	
Supporting information/example	
Explanation/ Elaboration	
Supporting information/example	
Reasoning	

## Answer - Exercise 1

<b>Topic sentence</b>	It has been argued that children are born with language and have the ability to recognise sounds in their mother tongue
<b>Supporting information/example</b>	Bailey (2010) claimed that this ability to understand language occurs in the womb during pregnancy
<b>Explanation/Elaboration</b>	This explains how children learn a language so rapidly during the first few years of life and can respond so quickly to sounds that their parents produce.
<b>Supporting information/example</b>	Similarly Johnson (2011) highlights children's ability to distinguish between sounds in their mother tongue at a very young age.
<b>Reasoning</b>	Collectively this would suggest that children are equipped with a set of pre-determined skills that enables them to quickly languages

## Answer - Exercise 2

<b>Topic sentence</b>	Despite the well-established view of a language existing before birth, many argue that this cannot explain children's ability to produce sounds in their mother tongue
<b>Supporting information/example</b>	Henderson (2007) claims that, although there is some evidence to support some understanding of sounds, this cannot be understood as language
<b>Explanation/ Elaboration</b>	Specifically this author does not follow the idea that language is pre-existing but that children's recognition of sounds may be due to exposure to the mother language in the first months of life
<b>Supporting information/example</b>	This view is supported by Jones (2008) who highlights the large number of hours children spend listening to their mother tongue before the onset of productive language.
<b>Reasoning</b>	Therefore, the arguments presented suggest that exposure to the language being learned plays a significant role in understanding children's rate of language learning