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✨ Grade 8 English — Paragraphs ✨

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1

Answer both (separate your two answers with a comma). 1) Read: "Recycling programs reduce landfill waste significantly. Council data shows a 30% drop in landfill volume since kerbside recycling began. My cousin visited Japan last year and loved the food. This decline eases pressure on limited landfill space and lowers methane emissions." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph? 2) Read: "Urban beehives have quietly multiplied across city rooftops in the last decade. Rooftop honey now appears on menus at dozens of local cafes. Beekeepers report city hives often produce more honey than rural ones, thanks to the variety of garden flowers nearby. For these reasons, councils should actively encourage more rooftop hives." Which sentence is the concluding (linking) sentence that ties back to the topic sentence?

2

Answer all three (separate with commas). 1) Read: "Sleep is essential for teenage brain development. During deep sleep, the brain consolidates memories formed during the day. It also clears out waste proteins linked to poor concentration. Without enough sleep, these processes are disrupted, harming both memory and mood." Which sentence is the topic sentence of this paragraph? 2) Read: "Skateparks give young people a safe, supervised space to be active. They reduce the number of skaters using busy footpaths and roads. They also bring teenagers together in a shared, positive community activity. The nearby shopping centre installed new escalators last year." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph? 3) Read: "Community choirs have grown in popularity among older residents in recent years. Regular singing has been linked to improved breathing and mood in several studies. Choir members also report forming lasting friendships through weekly rehearsals. The local swimming pool was repainted over the summer holidays." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph?

3

Answer both (separate your two answers with a comma). 1) Read: "Community gardens strengthen neighbourhoods in ways beyond fresh vegetables. Residents who garden together report knowing more of their neighbours by name. Shared plots also give isolated elderly residents a reason to leave the house regularly. The council renovated the nearby pool last spring." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph? 2) Read: "The volunteer program transformed the shelter. Donations tripled within a year. New volunteers organised weekend adoption events. Local businesses began sponsoring supplies. The shelter's beloved cat, Whiskers, passed away peacefully at the age of fourteen." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph?

4

Answer both (separate your two answers with a comma). 1) Read: "Bees are essential to food production around the world. As they move from flower to flower collecting nectar, they pollinate the plants that produce roughly a third of the food we eat. Without them, many fruits and vegetables would become scarce and expensive." Which sentence is the topic sentence of this paragraph? 2) Read: "The debating club transformed how shy students see public speaking. Members report feeling far more comfortable presenting in front of the whole class. The club also sharpened their ability to construct a clear, logical argument under pressure. The school cafeteria changed its lunch menu this term." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph?

5

Answer both (separate your two answers with a comma). 1) Read: "Food trucks have reshaped how city workers eat lunch. They offer a wider variety of cuisines than most nearby cafes. Their lower overhead costs often mean cheaper prices than a sit-down restaurant. The council voted last month to resurface several suburban roads. Workers also appreciate being able to eat outdoors in nearby parks." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph? 2) Read: "Recycling programs reduce landfill waste significantly. Council data shows a 30% drop in landfill volume since kerbside recycling began. My cousin visited Japan last year and loved the food. This decline eases pressure on limited landfill space and lowers methane emissions." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph?

6

Answer all three (separate with commas). 1) Read: "Local farmers markets connect shoppers directly with the people who grow their food. Shoppers can ask growers questions about how produce was raised. The short supply chain also means fruit and vegetables are often fresher than supermarket equivalents. My uncle once worked at a car factory for ten years." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph? 2) Read: "Owning a pet teaches children genuine responsibility. Feeding and walking a dog on a fixed schedule builds daily discipline. Caring for an animal when it is unwell builds empathy that extends to people as well. For these reasons, many child psychologists recommend pet ownership as part of growing up." Which sentence is the topic sentence of this paragraph? 3) Read: "Urban beehives have quietly multiplied across city rooftops in the last decade. Rooftop honey now appears on menus at dozens of local cafes. Beekeepers report city hives often produce more honey than rural ones, thanks to the variety of garden flowers nearby. For these reasons, councils should actively encourage more rooftop hives." Which sentence is the concluding (linking) sentence that ties back to the topic sentence?

7

Read: "Reading fiction builds empathy in ways nonfiction rarely does. Stories let readers live inside another person's thoughts and choices. Following a character through hardship builds genuine understanding of different lives. For these reasons, English classes should keep fiction at their centre." Which sentence is the concluding (linking) sentence that ties back to the topic sentence?

8

Answer both (separate your two answers with a comma). 1) Read: "The volunteer program transformed the shelter. Donations tripled within a year. New volunteers organised weekend adoption events. Local businesses began sponsoring supplies. The shelter's beloved cat, Whiskers, passed away peacefully at the age of fourteen." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph? 2) Read: "Owning a pet teaches children genuine responsibility. Feeding and walking a dog on a fixed schedule builds daily discipline. Caring for an animal when it is unwell builds empathy that extends to people as well. For these reasons, many child psychologists recommend pet ownership as part of growing up." Which sentence is the topic sentence of this paragraph?

9

Answer all three (separate with commas). 1) Read: "Learning a musical instrument sharpens memory and discipline. Regular practice strengthens the same brain pathways used in memorising information for exams. It also teaches patience, since mastering a piece takes consistent, unglamorous repetition. For these reasons, schools should fund music programs generously." Which sentence is the topic sentence of this paragraph? 2) Read: "The new bridge has cut commute times by fifteen minutes on average. Local businesses report higher foot traffic as a result. However, the sharp rise in construction debt means council rates may need to increase within two years." Which sentence introduces a shift in the paragraph's focus? 3) Read: "The volunteer program transformed the shelter. Donations tripled within a year. New volunteers organised weekend adoption events. Local businesses began sponsoring supplies. The shelter's beloved cat, Whiskers, passed away peacefully at the age of fourteen." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph?

10

Answer all three (separate with commas). 1) Read: "The school choir has grown from a handful of singers into one of its most popular clubs. New members say they joined mainly to make friends outside their usual year group. However, competition for solo parts has become far more intense than it used to be." Which sentence introduces a shift in the paragraph's focus? 2) Read: "The volunteer program transformed the shelter. Donations tripled within a year. New volunteers organised weekend adoption events. Local businesses began sponsoring supplies. The shelter's beloved cat, Whiskers, passed away peacefully at the age of fourteen." Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph? 3) Read: "Composting kitchen scraps keeps a surprising amount of waste out of landfill. It turns potato peels and coffee grounds into rich soil instead of rotting methane-producing waste. For these reasons, every household should keep a compost bin." Which sentence is the concluding (linking) sentence that ties back to the topic sentence?