

What is a paragraph?



Student Use of Computers

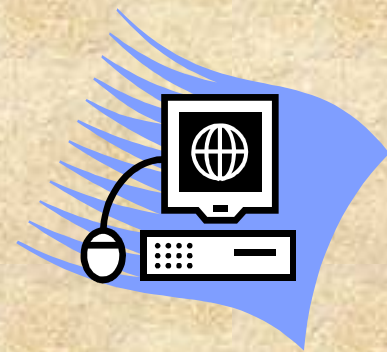
Computers are excellent machines to help students. Before computers, students had to do their homework on typewriters. Typewriters did not allow students to make major changes easily, so they had to use special correction fluid to fix mistakes. Today computers let students move information around without retyping it and correct errors with little effort. Computers also make research more convenient for students. For



example, before computers, students had to go to the library. Many times they would read four or five hours in several sources before finding useful information. However, students can now use the internet from their home to obtain the information that they need much more quickly. Some computers are very expensive. My friend bought a computer that cost almost three thousand dollars. Computers have certainly made students' lives much easier.



1. The general topic of the par. is how computers help students. Does the par. have a topic sentence? If so, write it here.
2. Are all the sentences related to the topic? If not, write the unrelated sentences here.
3. Is the first line indented?
4. What is the concluding sentences?



KEY

Student Use of Computers

Computers are excellent machines to help students. Before computers, students had to do their homework on typewriters. Typewriters did not allow students to make major changes easily, so they had to use special correction fluid to fix mistakes. Today computers let students move information around without retyping it and correct errors with little effort. Computers also make research more convenient for students. For example, before computers,

students had to go to the library. Many times they would read four or five hours in several sources before finding useful information. However, students can now use the internet from their home to obtain the information that they need much more quickly. Some computers are very expensive. My friend bought a computer that cost almost three thousand dollars. Computers have certainly made students' lives much easier.

Four Features of a Paragraph

1. A paragraph has a topic sentence that states the main idea → It can be at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of the paragraph.
2. All of the sentences in a paragraph are about one topic.
3. The first line of a paragraph is indented
4. The last sentence, or concluding sentence, brings the paragraph to a logical conclusion → The concluding sentence usually states the main point again or summarizes the main idea of the paragraph (it can offer a suggestion, an opinion, or a prediction).