



## Paragraphs, Useful Sentence Starters and Discourse Markers

- A paragraph is a group of sentences on one topic or idea, or something occurring at a certain time or in a certain place.
- Remember to begin a new paragraph every time you change character, place, time or subject/idea.
- Paragraphs are also used to show **when the speaker changes in a piece of dialogue. This is sometimes called “new speaker, new line”**.
- Paragraphs should begin with a **topic sentence** which introduces the key points of what is to follow.
- It is useful to use **DISCOURSE MARKERS (specific sentence starters)** to begin new paragraphs as they can really help to signpost the way for the reader.

Some of the most useful DISCOURSE MARKERS are in the table below – try to use them when you can to improve the organisation and fluency of your writing

<p><b><u>ADDING to:</u></b></p> <p>and also as well as moreover too furthermore additionally</p>	<p><b><u>SEQUENCING</u></b></p> <p>first, second, third... finally next meanwhile after then subsequently</p>	<p><b><u>ILLUSTRATING/giving examples</u></b></p> <p>for example such as for instance in the case of as revealed by... illustrated by</p>	<p><b><u>CAUSE and EFFECT</u></b></p> <p>because so therefore thus consequently hence</p>
<p><b><u>COMPARING (finding similarities)</u></b></p> <p>similarly likewise as with like equally in the same way..</p>	<p><b><u>QUALIFYING</u></b></p> <p>but however although unless except apart from as long as if</p>	<p><b><u>CONTRASTING (looking at differences)</u></b></p> <p>whereas alternatively otherwise unlike on the other hand.. conversely</p>	<p><b><u>EMPHASISING</u></b></p> <p>above all in particular especially significantly indeed notably</p>