

Paragraph types – description

A **description** paragraph is required when you are asked to write about how something looks, sound, smells, tastes or feels. You should provide specific details of the most important features and use appropriate adjectives to describe attributes and qualities.

Topic Sentence identifies the phenomenon to be described
Support Sentences give an organised description of its parts, functions and characteristics Ways of sequencing include the following: from left to right from most important features to least important features from main characteristics to minor details.
Concluding Sentence (usually unnecessary)

Useful Transitional Words and Phrases

in the foreground, in the middle distance, in the background, in the far distance, next to, near, up, down, between, above, below, on top of, beneath, left right, centre, front, back, middle, in the interior, on the exterior, on the inside, on the outside, surrounding

Examples of questions requiring a *description* paragraph

Describe the major characteristics which make animals suitable for domestication.

Describe a single-dish radiotelescope.

Describe the main features of *Heteronema*.

Describe the castle at Vincennes.

Describe the main features of the lemur.

Sample paragraph 1

Describe the main features of *Heteronema*.

Heteronema is a flagellate protozoan. It is spindle-shaped 65 microns in length and 10 microns in diameter. At the anterior end there is a reservoir and the two flagella arise in it. The single nucleus is egg-shaped and lies near the centre of the body. There is a contractile vacuole near the reservoir, and there are several large paramylon bodies scattered through the body.

Sample paragraph 2

Describe the main features of the *lemur*.

The lemur has a moist nose and a cleft upper lip. It has a striking foxlike muzzle and a good sense of smell. Most lemurs have nails on the fingers and toes, except for the second toe, which bears a claw. This is called the 'toilet claw,' because it is used in grooming. Lemurs also groom their fur with the tongue and the lower front teeth, which slant outward almost horizontally. Generally speaking, lemurs and their relatives are small mammals with thick or woolly hair and large eyes. Some have long bushy tails; others, rat-like tails; a few, only a stub.