

# Paragraph Types: Classification

In a **classification** paragraph, separate items are grouped into categories according to shared characteristics. Depending on the subject, you may be asked to classify people, organisms, things, or ideas.

**Topic sentence** identifies what is to be classified and the categories used.

**Support Sentences** give more information about each of the categories; use technical language to describe the topic

**Concluding Sentence** (optional)

## Useful transitional words and phrases

- can be divided, can be classified, can be categorised
- the first/second/third type, the first/second third category, next, finally
- words to compare or contrast: likewise, in the same way, similarly, on the other hand, however, in contrast

## Examples of questions requiring a classification paragraph

- How are faults classified?
- Describe the chemical classification of hormones giving two examples of each.
- How did Malinowski classify folktales?
- How can the Hindu population of India be classified?

## Sample paragraph 1

**How did Malinowski classify folktales?**

Malinowski proposed a **three-way classification** for folktales and distinguished between myth, legend, and fairy story. According to Brown (2016), Malinowski suggested that **the first** of these represents a statement of a higher and more important truth of a primeval reality. As such, it is regarded as sacred. Fairy stories, **on the other hand**, are simply entertainment. Nobody attaches any special significance to them, and nobody believes them to be true. Legends, **however**, are believed to be true historical accounts (Brown, 2016).

## Sample paragraph 2

**How can the Hindu population of India be classified?**

The whole Hindu population of India **can be divided into** four castes or varna. **The highest of these** castes is that of the Brahmans or priests (Singh, 2002). **The next highest** is the varna of the warriors, known as the Kshatriya, or sometimes the Rajput caste (Pashwar, 2004). **Below this** comes the Vaishya or merchant caste and **the lowest** caste is known as the Sudra caste (Singh, 2002). While castes are traditionally associated with a type of occupation, in modern India, occupations are not a reliable guide to caste.