

3 **Rewriting a Paragraph with Connecting Words** Rewrite the following paragraph using *also* and *in addition* to connect similar ideas.

Studying abroad offers students many advantages. First of all, students have the opportunity to learn a new language by interacting with native speakers every day. The students live in a new culture, so they can learn both in and out of the classroom. Studying abroad teaches students that there are other ways of looking at the world. This is a very important part of education. Students learn to be flexible because they have to adapt to different ways of living. They experience another culture in a much more significant way than if they simply took a vacation to another country. Foreign students are far from home. Therefore, they have to become responsible and self-reliant. When they study abroad, students have an experience they will remember all their lives.

1 Revising for Content Look at the paragraph below. Focus only on the content—the writer’s ideas and organization. Make comments and suggestions based on the following questions:

1. Does the writer give enough information?
2. Does the topic sentence state the main idea of the paragraph?
3. Does the writer give reasons for his or her opinions?
4. Is the paragraph smooth or choppy?
5. Does the writer use overgeneralizations?

Don't worry about misspelled words and other errors for now.

There are several reasons that undergraduate students should not study away from home living away from home is much more expensive than living at home. Families can save money by not paying room and board, teenagers are not mature enough to live far away from their families. Therefore, they often get into trouble. Some students even fail courses because they are not disciplined enough to study in addition they never go to class. Finally many students feel lonely and homesick So they are not able to study. All undergraduate students who stay home with their families get a good education and also a good price.

Strategy

Editing for Form

When you edit writing for form, focus on how the writing looks on the page as well as the grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Following are some guidelines for forming paragraphs:

Guidelines for Forming Paragraphs

(For more rules on capitalization and punctuation, see Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.)

1. Indent the first sentence of your paragraphs.
2. Leave a one-inch left and right margin.
3. Begin each sentence with a capital letter.
4. End each sentence with a period (.), a question mark (?), or an exclamation point (!).
5. Make sure that the end punctuation immediately follows the last word of the sentence.
6. Leave one space between sentences.
7. Double-space the paragraph.

5 Describing Feelings In your descriptive paragraph, you will include the feelings and opinions you have about the place you describe. Write a few notes about how you feel about the place you describe. Also write about why you feel the way you do.

Example *My bedroom makes me feel relaxed and calm.*



6 Sharing Your Ideas Describe the place you chose to a partner. Help each other get ideas by asking each other questions about the places you described. Add any new ideas you have to your notes.

Building Vocabulary

7 Identifying Descriptive Words and Phrases Read the following paragraph. Notice the effect the details have on the writing. Underline the descriptive words and phrases.

My Neighborhood

My neighborhood is fascinating because people from all over the world live in it. When I walk down the main street of my neighborhood, I can hear the unfamiliar sounds of languages from all over the world. Each ethnic group has its own colorful shop or fascinating restaurant. On a warm evening, I can smell the sweet melons from the Korean produce store and the spicy curries from the Indian restaurant. These smells are free, but for a small price, I can also buy any of 50 kinds of cheeses with strange names from one store, or exotic Asian vegetables and the spices to cook them in from another. The people of the neighborhood take pride in their surroundings. On almost every street, they plant trees and flowers from their native countries to remind them of home and to brighten up the dull gray cement and run-down apartment buildings. One of my neighbors plants delicate Scottish flowers every year in memory of her mother's garden in Scotland. Another neighbor has a Chinese vegetable garden in window boxes. I don't need to buy an airplane ticket to experience the world; a walk around my neighborhood can be just as exciting.

8 Matching Words to Their Definitions Find words or phrases in the paragraph above that mean the following:

1. strange and unusual exotic
2. small and pretty _____
3. very interesting _____
4. to make pretty _____

Strategy

Writing Concluding Sentences

Most paragraphs have concluding sentences that repeat the idea of the topic sentence in different words. Below is the concluding sentence from the paragraph on page 26 about a neighborhood. Note that it repeats the idea of the topic sentence in different words. In that way, it summarizes the main point of the paragraph.

Example

I don't need to buy an airplane ticket to experience the world; a walk around my neighborhood can be just as exciting.

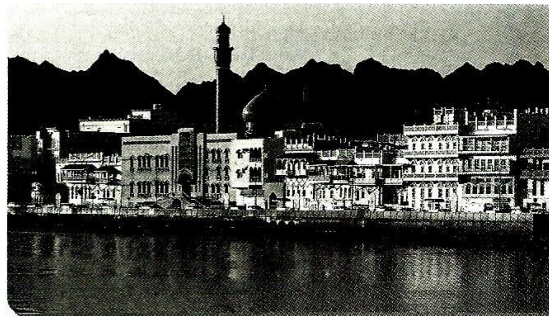
Other concluding sentences give a personal reaction to the topic of the paragraph. Below is a concluding sentence for a paragraph about a Brazilian student's experience living in a dormitory at an Australian college. Note that it includes a personal opinion.

Example

Even though it was sometimes too noisy and crowded, I enjoyed living in my dormitory because of all of the friends I made.

15 Writing Concluding Sentences Read the paragraph below. Then write three possible concluding sentences. Share your ideas with a group of three.

Muscat, the ancient capital of Oman, is on a spectacular site. The city lies on a narrow strip of land between the sparkling blue waters of the Arabian Gulf and the rocky brown mountains behind it. Muscat is a wonderful combination of historic sites and modern buildings. Tourists interested in history will marvel



▲ The corniche in Muttrah Souq, Oman

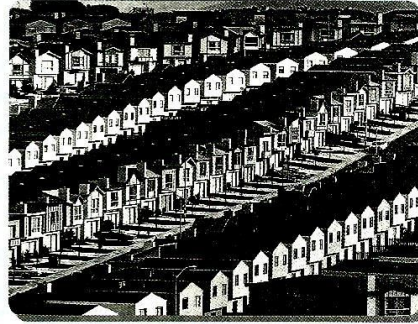
at the splendid forts with their watchtowers and walled gateways. Those with an interest in contemporary architecture will appreciate the simple lines of the Sultan's lovely but unpretentious palace. Directly adjacent to Muscat is the harbor of Muttrah with its beautiful corniche and busy market full of the sights and sounds of this ancient bridge between the Middle East and Asia.

Revising for Content and Editing for Form



1 Revising for Content Revise the following paragraph for content. Decide whether some sentences need to be removed or whether the topic sentence should be changed. Cross out sentences that don't belong or rewrite the topic sentence. Discuss your changes with a partner.

We live in an ordinary house on an ordinary street in an ordinary suburb, and I think it is terrific! Our house is now about 30 years old, but it looks newer. I used to live in apartments, first in Florida, and then in New Mexico. But I prefer living in our own home. My house is like hundreds of other houses in the suburbs, one story with an attached garage. There is nothing special about the house, and it won't win any prizes for architecture, but it's perfect for our family. The kitchen is big and has new appliances, including a beautiful new dishwasher and a microwave oven. I don't like the heat, but we have air conditioning in the living room and bedrooms, so it is always cool. I don't know why some people I know don't like the suburbs. For the kids, there's a nice yard where they can play. It's very safe, so my wife and I don't have to worry. I am very thankful that we can afford this house and live our ordinary lives in it.



▲ A suburban community in the United States

CORRECTING COMMA SPLICES

A comma splice is an incorrect sentence made of two independent clauses connected with a comma. An independent clause has a subject and a verb and can stand alone.

Comma splice: I am living in a dormitory room, it is much too small for my roommate and me.

Comma splice: First you notice all the exciting sights, later you notice the dirt.

You can correct a comma splice in at least three ways:

1. Change the comma to a period or a semicolon.

Examples

I am living in a dormitory room. It is much too small for my roommate and me.

First you notice all the exciting sights; later you notice the dirt.

2. Change the comma splice into a sentence with a dependent clause. The dependent clause is underlined in the example.



October 29, 20

Fortune or Thievery?

COLUMBUS, OHIO. October 28 was a fortunate day for motorists driving along Interstate 71 at about 9:30 in the morning. As a truck from the Metropolitan Armored Car Company sped down the highway, its back door blew open, and bags of money fell onto the road. When other vehicles hit the bags, the bags split open, spewing over a million dollars all over the highway.



▲ An armored truck spilled bags of money on Interstate 71.

It didn't take motorists long to realize that the paper swirling around them was cash. They stopped on and around the highway and scooped up handfuls of money, gleefully putting \$20, \$50, \$100, even \$1,000 dollar bills into bags, pockets, and purses. When the police arrived, they estimated that over two hundred people had been helping themselves to the bonanza.

Officials hoping to recover the money were not so gleeful. Columbus Mayor Dana G. Rinehart called the motorists who took the money thieves and said, "May they have many sleepless nights." He states the government will prosecute anyone the police can find.

To encourage the return of the money, Metropolitan Armored Car Company has offered a reward of 10% of all the money they receive. So far, however, they have received only \$100,000 from about thirty different people. One man gave back \$57,000. Another man, however, called to say he was set for life and was leaving town. Since the cash was insured and belonged to local banks, many people can't see that they are hurting anyone by keeping it.

Even if the government prosecutes, it will have trouble convicting the thieves. "Probably two-thirds of the jurors would think the defendants should have kept the money," said prosecutor Michael Miller.



▲ I didn't want to go to the farm. I wanted to hang out with my friends in the city.

The year I turned 15, my parents sent me to work on my uncle's farm for the summer. It was in South Carolina, and they had peach trees, cows, and chickens. They didn't make much money, and my father was always telling my uncle to sell the farm and come to Chicago. I didn't want to go to the farm, and I didn't like it when I got there. It was very hot and muggy most of the time. My cousins got up at 4:30 in the morning and went to bed at 9:00 at night, and in between, they worked. I had never worked on a farm before, so my cousin Wayne had to teach me everything, like milking the cows, driving the tractor, and so on. We were the same age, but I was bigger than he was. I was already six feet tall. Even so, I couldn't do anything as well as he could. I had a lot of friends at home, and we always hung around together, especially in the summer. I used to think about them. "They don't have to work on some dumb farm," I thought. "Why do I have to?"



2 Comparing Your Revisions Compare your revision to your classmates' work. Did you take out the same things?

3 Editing for Form The following paragraphs are a continuation of the anecdote above. Correct the underlined verbs if they are wrong.

^{was}
~~I~~^{was} there about two weeks when Wayne and I have to load some bales of hay. After half an hour, we loaded a lot of bales and it was getting hard to throw them up onto the wagon. "I'm going to miss the next one," I thought. But Wayne missed first. His bale didn't go high enough and it has fallen back down. I took a deep breath and throw mine. I did it! "Hey Dad!"

(continued on next ~~page~~)

Wayne called, "Did you see that?" I did it again and they cheer. I felt wonderful. After that everything change.

Wayne and I were friends and we enjoy competing with each other in everything. Usually he was better, but sometimes I am. I worked hard all summer and I love it. I learn a lot that summer, but the most important lesson is that day in the hayfield. That was when I learn the satisfaction of doing hard work well.



▲ When I got the hang of farm work, I actually started to have fun.

Evaluating Your Writing

4 Using a Rubric Read the rubric below with your class. Then use the rubric to score your paragraphs.

Score	Description
3 Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Content: Paragraphs present a story that leads to a lesson with sufficient information to keep the reader's interest and includes no unimportant details or digressions.■ Organization: Second paragraph starts in a place that makes sense. Sentences follow chronological order, and concluding sentence includes a lesson.■ Vocabulary: Vocabulary is varied, specific, and used correctly throughout.■ Grammar: Simple past, present perfect, and past perfect verb tenses are used correctly.■ Spelling and Mechanics: Words are spelled correctly throughout, and punctuation is correct.

5. I was too short and was not thin enough. _____, I could not continue to dance professionally.

6. I came to the International English Program six months ago.
_____, I have made many new friends.

7 Writing the First Draft Write your paragraph. Write about an accomplishment or experience that shows you have the qualities to succeed in a particular job or educational program. Use the ideas you developed in the beginning of the chapter. Don't forget to include:

- a topic sentence.
- demonstratives such as *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*.
- a concluding sentence.