



Tikrit University

College of Education for Women

English Department Subject : writing in paragraph

1st year

Lecturer: Noor Ismail Khalil

[mr.noorkhalil@tu.edu.iq](mailto:mr.noorkhalil@tu.edu.iq)

**Giving an opinion**

## language focus: Giving an opinion

Your opinion is your personal feeling, a fact is something that is true. Most writing uses both facts and opinions. When you talk about your opinions, you can start your sentence

I think /friends should always be honest.

I don't think white lies are dangerous.

I believe it is better to upset your friends than to lie.

In my view, it is often safer to lie than to tell the truth.

In my opinion, lying is the same as cheating or stealing.

When you write, you can use one of the sentence structures above. However, be careful not to use too many, or to use them too often. That can make your writing sound weak. The reader knows that the paragraph is your opinion, because you wrote it

- Look at the sentences below. Write F for the facts, and O for the opinions.

a. .... Learning English is easier for girls than for boys.

.... There are more boys than girls in my English class.

b.,,.,. Good teachers don't give too much homework.

Our teacher gave us homework last week.

c. .... Keanu Reeves is a good actor

.,,.,. Keanu Reeves starred in the Matrix films.

d..... Many teenagers carry mobile phones these days.

Mobile phones are very convenient.

e..... All students have to wear a uniform at my school.

Our school uniforms are not very comfortable.

f. .... I don't believe that wearing the latest fashions is important.

My favorite clothes are all black.

8 Decide if these sentences are opinions [O] or examples (E). Write O or E next to each sentence.

a. .... Smoking should be banned in all restaurant ,

b-..... Smoking is banned in restaurants in California are New York.

c-..... The air is cleaner and healthier in non-smoking restaurants,

d-.....I believe that customers prefer non-smoking restaurants.

e-.....My clothes smelt horrible after I had dinner with a friend who smoked.

f.....I went to a smoky restaurant in Paris, and I couldn't eat my food,

g-----In my country, smoking is banned on buses and chains, and in all public buildings

Cause and effect / result

a So and because can be used to join two sentences together:

It was raining. I took an umbrella.

It was raining, so I took on umbrella.

I took on umbrella because it was ruining.

o So and because have a similar function.

So tells us the result or effect of a situation:

I took an umbrella a.

Because tells us why something happens (the cause):

I took an umbrella. Why? Because it was raining.

So and because are often very close in meaning, and you can choose either - but you must use so with the result / effect and because with the cause:

I had a cold. I didn't go to class.

I had a cold, so I didn't go to class.

I didn't go to class because I had a cold.

Note: A comma comes before so. There is no comma before because.

Language focus Starting with because

Look at these two sentences:

I was too tired to write it going because it was late,

Because it was very late, I was too tired to write it again.

There is no difference in meaning between these two sentences. When you write, use both styles. This will make your writing more varied and more interesting. However, there is a difference in punctuation.

Writing focus.' Using questions to catch attention

A question at the beginning of your paragraph can encourage your reader to think deeply about your topic. Questions can be used to start paragraphs about a difficult decision, opinions, or personal feelings. In the opening paragraph in this unit, the writer asked, Do you think it's OK to tell your best friend's secret? This question helps the reader to think about the topic of secrets and telling them.

However, questions can be difficult to use effectively. The best questions are ones that help the reader to focus on and think about your topic. You need to imagine your audience [the people who will read your writing] and imagine how they might answer the question,

- Will the answer be too easy or too obvious?
- Could the reader give an answer very different from yours?

If the writer of telling o Secret had asked Have you ever told your best friend's secret? or Have you ever had a friend with anorexia?, the reader might have answered in his / her mind, No; and then lost interest in the topic.

If the writer had asked, Do you know what anorexia is?, the reader might have answered Of course and thought that the paragraph topic would be too simple