

Develop your writing

➤ **Goal:** write an essay

➤ **Focus:** writing paragraphs



1 a Discuss the questions.

- 1 What differences are there between the way we live now and the way we lived in the past?
- 2 Is life easier or more difficult now? Think about things like travel, free time interests, housework and cooking.

b Read the essay. Does it mention any of your ideas?

Was life really better?

¹People often talk about how life was better in the past, but how true is that? Let's compare my grandparents' lives with my life today.

²Life was certainly different in my grandparents' day. There were no modern appliances such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners to make housework easy, so they had to work hard to keep their house clean and prepare their food. They also didn't have the same opportunities to enjoy themselves that we have. They couldn't travel to all the interesting places we go to on holiday and their summer holidays were usually spent at the same local beach every year. Life was harder and less interesting.

³Modern life is easier in many ways. Our kitchens are full of electrical appliances to make our lives easier, from fridges to dishwashers. We have more time to do the things we want and more things to do. We now have the opportunity to travel the world easily and experience new cultures. As a result, people are living less stressful and more interesting lives.

⁴I am not saying everything is perfect today, but for all the reasons above, I think I am very lucky compared to my grandparents!

2 Read the Focus box. How is a paragraph organised?

Writing paragraphs

A well-organised paragraph focuses on one subject (the topic).

Topic sentence

The first sentence of the paragraph usually gives the writer's main idea about the topic.

Life was certainly different in my grandparents' day.

Example sentences

The rest of the paragraph usually supports the main idea by giving reasons, examples and supporting details.

There were no modern appliances such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners to make housework easy, so they had to work hard to keep their house clean.

Conclusion sentence

A paragraph often finishes with a sentence that gives a result or conclusion.

Life was harder and less interesting.

3 Look at the third paragraph of the essay in Exercise 1b. Underline the topic sentence and example sentences. Is there a conclusion sentence?

4 Put the sentences in the correct order to make a paragraph.

- a For example, there was no social media,
- b In many ways life was easier in the past.
- c People didn't have so many things going on in their lives like we do these days.
- d so people didn't spend so much time checking what their friends were doing
- e They also didn't spend so much time watching the millions of TV programmes that we have now.
- f As a result, they spent more time talking to each other, and maybe that's a good thing.
- g and worrying if they were 'doing enough'.

Prepare

5 a You're going to write an essay answering the question below. What's your opinion?

People often talk about how life was better in the 'good old days', but how true is that?

b Look at the topics below. Write topic sentences about the difference between life in the past and life now.

- education
- technology
- communication
- entertainment/leisure

c For each of the topics, think of examples that will support your topic sentences.

Write

6 Write your essay. Use your topic sentences and examples to help you.