What is a paragraph? Answers and notes

What your child practised: a paragraph is a group of sentences about one idea, starting on a new line (Year 3 writing).

Page 1 · Warm up

A paragraph is a group of **sentences** about one **idea**.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. There should be fewer paragraphs than lines, unless every paragraph is one line long (common in speech).

Page 2 · A. How many paragraphs?

Page 1: **2** (7 lines) · Page 2: **4** · Page 3: **3**

Page 3 · B. Hedgehogs

1. **3** paragraphs · 2. **2** sentences
3. Paragraph 1: **what they look like** · Paragraph 2: **what they eat** · Paragraph 3: **winter**

Page 3 · C. True or false

True · **False** · **True** · **False** (most paragraphs have several sentences, though a short one can have just one)

Page 3 · D. My paragraph

Answers will vary. Check: it starts a little way in, has 2 or 3 sentences, and every sentence is about the same animal.

Challenge: No, Leo isn't right. Page 1 has 7 lines but only **2 paragraphs**: a paragraph can take up several lines. To check, he should look for the lines that start **a little way in** (the indents) and count those.

Watch out for

- **Counting sentences or lines instead of paragraphs.** Ask, "Where does the writer start a new line, a little way in?" Count only those starts.
- **Not noticing the new line.** Run a finger down the left edge of the page together. The indent is the clue that a new paragraph has begun.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Book check:** at bedtime, ask how many paragraphs are on the page before you turn it.
- **One-idea talk:** take turns saying three sentences about one thing (your breakfast, a pet, a toy) without wandering off the idea.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Sort the Sentences, groups sentences about the same idea into one paragraph.