

# Paragraphs



# Non-fiction: Spot the paragraphs



- ❖ The text is split into a number of sections.
- ❖ These are called paragraphs.
- ❖ Each starts on a new line.
- ❖ In each one, the first line starts a little way in.
- ❖ Each one is about a different aspect of the topic.

# Grey Seal

How many paragraphs can you see?

The grey seal is a species of seal found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Male grey seals in the eastern Atlantic grow to between 195cm and 230cm. Female grey seals are smaller. They grow to between 160cm and 195cm. A common average weight for seals in the United Kingdom was found to be about 233 kg for males and about 154 kg for females. They have large snouts. The males are generally darker with dark scarring around the neck. Females are silver grey with dark patches.

Note the indented first line.

In the United Kingdom and Ireland, the grey seal breeds in several colonies on and around the coasts. There are large seal colonies at Blakeney Point in Norfolk, Donna Nook in Lincolnshire and the Farne Islands off the Northumberland coast. Orkney has a large seal colony. There are smaller colonies around the rest of the coast.

The grey seal feeds on a wide variety of fish. Sand eels are important in its diet. Seals will also eat flatfish, herring, wrasse and skate. If it is available, they will eat octopus and lobster. The average daily food requirement is estimated to be 5kg. Seals do not feed every day. They fast during the breeding season.

Seals can survive captivity and are often found in zoos. Traditionally they were popular circus animals. Seals were often used in performances such as balancing and diving acts.

Write a heading for each paragraph

# Grey Seals

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Male grey seals in the eastern Atlantic grow to between 195cm and 230cm. Female grey seals are smaller. They grow to between 160cm and 195cm. A common average weight for seals in the United Kingdom was found to be about 233 kg for males and about 154 kg for females. Grey seals do not have ear flaps and usually have large snouts. The males are generally darker than the females, with lighter patches and often scarring around the neck. Females are silver grey to brown and also have dark patches.

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Seals can survive captivity and are often found in zoos. Traditionally they were popular circus animals. Seals were often used in performances such as balancing and display acts.

# Non-fiction: Using paragraphs

REMEMBER THAT



- ❖ The text is split into a number of paragraphs.
- ❖ Each one is about a different aspect of the topic.
- ❖ Each starts on a new line.
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# Fiction: Spot the paragraphs



- ❖ The text is split into a number of sections.
- ❖ These are called paragraphs.
- ❖ Each starts on a new line.
- ❖ In each one, the first line starts a little way in.
- ❖ New paragraphs come with a change in action or focus.

# Peter and the Selkie

How many paragraphs can you see?

Once there was a boy named Peter who lived with his grandmother. They lived next to the sea.

The sand between their house and Seal Island was uncovered at low tide. Peter's granny always told him that he must stay away from Seal Island, but Peter wanted to go. Peter told his granny about the oysterman and how he knew a safe way across to Seal Island. Peter's granny was angry with him.

Note the indented first line.

One day Peter went to the oysterman's cottage. He saw how the oysterman left a line of sticks behind him as he walked across the sand. He saw how the oysterman collected his sticks when he came back.

One day when Peter's granny was not watching, he decided to go to the oysterman's cottage. When he got there, he heard the oysterman chanting about something called a Selkie. Peter was not sure what that was. He heard the oysterman chant that he was going to catch the selkie, that he would learn the language of the sea and then gather riches from the sea. Peter did not understand what the oysterman meant at all. He interrupted and asked the oysterman to show him how to get to Seal Island, but the oysterman shouted angrily at Peter.

Granny was angry with Peter too. She told Peter about selkies and she told him to stay right away from the oysterman.

What is each paragraph about?

# Fiction: Using paragraphs

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- ❖ The text is split into a number of paragraphs.
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Look at the paragraphs in this short story. Then look at Peter and the Selkie. What is the main differences you notice when reading each text?

### Mermaid of Zennor



The Mermaid of Zennor is a popular Cornish folk tale. It was first recorded by a man called William Bottrell in 1873.

In the story a beautiful and richly dressed woman attended services at the church in Zennor. Everyone in the church was enchanted by her beauty. Her singing was the best that anyone had ever heard. She never seemed to get any older and nobody knew where she had come from. Eventually, she became interested in a man called Matthew Trewella. He followed her home and was never seen again. Later a mermaid was seen in the sea near Zennor.

There is a 'mermaid chair' at St. Sunera's Church in Zennor. It is a wooden chair and there is a carving of a mermaid made in it. The mermaid carving shows a woman with scaly tail instead of legs. She has fins either side of her hips. In one hand she holds a comb and in the other a mirror. Nobody knows which came first: whether the chair inspired the legend, or the legend inspired the carving of the chair.

The story of The Mermaid of Zennor has been told for many years. People have written poems, songs and operas based on the story. There is a book by Charles Causley and Michael Foreman that tells a version of the story.

Place this sign in the text where you think there should be a new paragraph.



## Peter and the Selkie



Once there was a boy named Peter who lived with his grandmother. They lived next to the sea. The sand between their house and Seal Island was uncovered at low tide. Now Peter's granny had always warned him that he must stay away from Seal Island, but Peter wanted to go. He told his granny about the oysterman and how there was a safe way across the island. But Peter's granny warned Peter to stay right away from the oysterman. Peter would watch the oysterman journey to the island. He left a line of sticks behind him as he walked to the island. When he came back

he collected the sticks. Peter wanted to go to the island. One day, when his granny was not watching, Peter went to the oysterman's cottage. There he heard the oysterman chanting about a Selkie, about how he was going to catch the Selkie and about how he would learn the language of the sea. The oysterman said that he would gather riches from the sea. Peter did not understand what the oysterman meant. He asked the oysterman to show him how to get to Seal Island, but the oysterman shouted angrily at Peter. Granny was angry with Peter too. She told Peter about selkies and she told him to stay right away from the oysterman. But Peter did not listen to her. He found a way to follow the oysterman and he made the journey, across the sand, to Seal Island. He explored Seal Island and found a flock of seals. One of the seals was caught on the oysterman's net. Peter worked to set the seal free. When

her skin slipped off, Peter saw a young girl. He realised that it was the Selkie. Peter also realised that the tide had come in and that he had been left on Seal Island. He asked the Selkie to help him. She looked after him and taught him the language of the sea. As she was talking with Peter the oysterman returned and caught her in his net! Peter followed the oysterman back across the sand and saw how he took the Selkie to his wife. The wife dressed the Selkie like a little girl. Peter waited until the next day. He checked that the oysterman had left the house and that his wife was asleep. He crept into the house and he rescued the Selkie. He searched the house with her and found her skin. Then he carefully guided them both across the sand and returned the Selkie to Seal Island. Peter was sad to leave the Selkie, but he started to make his way home. He was not afraid of

the sea, because he had learnt its language from the Selkie. He saw a seal watching him and he knew that it was her.