

HOW TO WRITE AN ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES PARAGRAPH

When you are writing an advantages OR disadvantages paragraph, you should follow these steps:

1. Choose what you want to write about: advantages OR disadvantages.
You CANNOT write about both; you have to choose one.
2. Plan your paragraph before you start writing, to find enough ideas to write about.
3. Give examples and details for your ideas.

Let's move step by step.

STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE 1 TOPIC: What are the advantages OR disadvantages of riding a bike?

Step 1. ADVANTAGES of riding a bike.

Write down your ideas. (You need two or three ideas for a paragraph)

- healthy
- economical
- good for the environment

Step 2. Let's put our ideas together and make sentences.

Riding a bike is healthy. Riding a bike is economical. Riding a bike is good for the environment.

Is this a paragraph? No, not yet!

Step 3. What can we do to turn our sentences into a paragraph? We can add a sentence to the beginning of your paragraph. We call such a sentence a "**topic sentence**".

Riding a bike has three advantages. Riding a bike is healthy. Riding a bike is economical. Riding a bike is good for the environment.

Is this a paragraph? Not yet! It is not well structured.

Step 4. We can add some **transition words** to our sentences.

Riding a bike has three advantages. **Firstly**, riding a bike is healthy. **Secondly**, riding a bike is economical. **Finally**, riding a bike is good for the environment.

Is this a paragraph? Not yet!

It is still very short, and does not have any details or explanation.

Step 5. Let's add some details and explanation.

Riding a bike has three advantages. Firstly, riding a bike is healthy. **It is a great form of exercise for everyone. It helps us to keep fit and have an active life.** Secondly, riding a bike is economical. **When we ride our bikes, we don't need to drive, pay for gas, or pay for public transportation. It is free, so we don't spend any money. It is a great choice if we want to save money.** Finally, riding a bike is good for the environment. **Bicycles do not cause any air pollution because there is no CO₂ emission. Also, bikes do not cause any noise pollution. When we ride a bike, we also protect our planet.**

Step 6. Our paragraph is almost complete. It has a topic sentence, three advantages, transition words, and enough details and explanation. It has 118 words. Now we add one final sentence to make our paragraph even better. We call such a sentence a **“concluding sentence”**.

Riding a bike has three advantages. Firstly, riding a bike is healthy. It is a great form of exercise for everyone. It also helps us to keep fit, and have an active life. Secondly, riding a bike is economical. When we ride our bikes, we don't need to drive, pay for gas, or pay for public transportation. It is free, so we don't spend any money. It is a great choice if we want to save money. Finally, riding a bike is good for the environment. Bicycles do not cause any air pollution because there is no CO₂ emission. Also, bikes do not cause any noise pollution. When we ride a bike, we also protect our planet from. **To summarize, riding a bike is very advantageous.**

STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE 2 TOPIC: What are the advantages OR disadvantages of riding a bike?

Step 1. DISADVANTAGES of riding a bike.

- dangerous
- expensive
- not fast enough

Step 2. Write full sentences with your ideas.

Riding a bike can be dangerous. Riding a bike is expensive. Bikes are not fast enough.

Step 3. Add the “topic sentence”.

There are three disadvantages of riding a bike. Riding a bike can be dangerous. Riding a bike is expensive. Bikes are not fast enough.

Step 4. Add transition words.

There are three disadvantages of riding a bike. Firstly, riding a bike can be dangerous. Secondly, riding a bike is expensive. Finally, bikes are not fast enough.

Step 5. Add details and explanation.

There are three disadvantages of riding a bike. Firstly, riding a bike can be dangerous. There are a lot of cars and big vehicles in traffic. Sometimes drivers are not careful, so bikers can have accidents on busy roads. Secondly, riding a bike is expensive. A good quality bike is very expensive nowadays. Also, bikers need helmets and protective gear. All these items are also very expensive. Finally, bikes are not fast enough. Bikes are slower than cars, buses, and metros. In big cities, people don't have a lot of time, so bikes are not an ideal form of transportation for them.

Step 6. Add the “concluding sentence”.

There are three disadvantages of riding a bike. Firstly, riding a bike can be dangerous. There are a lot of cars and big vehicles in traffic. Sometimes drivers are not careful, so bikers can have accidents on busy roads. Secondly, riding a bike is expensive. A good quality bike is very expensive nowadays. Also, bikers need helmets and protective gear. All these items are also very expensive. Finally, bikes are not fast

enough. Bikes are slower than cars, buses, and metros. In big cities, people don't have a lot of time, so bikes are not an ideal form of transportation for them. To summarize, riding a bike is disadvantageous for many reasons.

STEP BY STEP PRACTICE – YOUR TURN TO WRITE

Topic: What are the advantages OR disadvantages of living in a small town?

Step 1. _____ of living in a small town.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Step 2. Write full sentences with your ideas.

Step 3. Add the "topic sentence".

Step 4. Add transition words.

Step 5 and 6. Add details and explanation, then add the "concluding sentence".
