

Desenvolvimento das ideias no parágrafo

The paragraph

Definition

A group of related sentences that develop ONE main idea

Structure

Topic sentence

Purpose: to introduce the main idea of the paragraph and locate the paragraph in the overall text

Means: often includes a **general noun** or an **abstract noun**

1. General noun

Organising around class, concepts, components or parts

e.g. six **factors; elements; variables; features**

2. Abstract nouns

Technical terms & specific concepts

e.g. **demand** and **supply; erosion; ill health** in remote areas

Reference noun

Encoding a point of view:

e.g. one **problem; issues, solution, argument, perspective, benefit**

Organising around cause and effect relationships

e.g. three main **reasons; influences; implications**

Referring to ways or strategies

e.g. **approaches; strategies; processes; steps**

Identifying similarities and differences

e.g. **diversity, similarity**

Supporting sentences

Purpose: to elaborate the main idea

Means

1. Explaining and predicting consequences using one or more cause and effect sequences or explaining sequences
2. Giving examples
3. Describing how things are – aspects, features, characteristics
4. Reporting results of an investigation
5. Recording change over time
6. Using a combination of 1-5

Concluding sentence (not always present)

Purpose: to bring together the supporting information and present it with a new perspective

Means: often includes abstract (e.g. reference) noun that characterises the support

e.g. **advantages; problems; paradox**

Exercise 1.

Underline the nominal group with the general or abstract noun if there is one in the topic sentence. Identify the type of elaboration in the supporting sentences.

- a. The economic benefits of the timber industry are another argument for logging. Forest industries claim that they employ 300,000 people and have contributed about \$327 million a year to the economy. Without these industries many people would lose their jobs and the economy of the country would suffer greatly.
- b. The first and most obvious influence of women was on the social welfare of the colonies. Caroline Chisholm is an example of a woman who worked tirelessly to improve conditions for women. In the early 1900s women were greatly outnumbered by men. As a result many unmarried women from England were given financial incentives to immigrate. However, little thought was given to what to do with them once they arrived. Consequently many suffered homelessness and unemployment. Caroline Chisholm found jobs for female passengers, set up an immigrants' home and lobbied governments. This led to more provisions being provided for the care and settlement of these women.
- c. During 1903 and 1904, a series of failed diplomatic moves led to Japan breaking off diplomatic relations soon after war broke out. In April 1904, Russia was defeated at the Yalu River, and in January 1905, Port Arthur fell. Then in May, Russia's Baltic fleet was annihilated at Tsushima. Following this, Japan replaced Russia as the dominant power in southern Manchuria and received enormous prestige from the victory.
- d. Portugal is a major cork-grower; in fact, nearly one-third of the total cork oak area, estimated at 2,150,000 hectares (5.3 million acres) is in Portugal, which produces approximately half the cork harvested annually in the world (about 310,000 tons). Cork oak stands extend throughout the country although the intensity of production and quality of the cork vary in the different producing zones. The species, which covers approximately 8 percent of the total area of Portugal and constitutes 28 percent of its forests, grows best in the central and southern parts of the country where the largest stands supplying the greatest percentage of high-grade cork are to be found.
- e. The rise in the number of tourists visiting Lisbon as well as in the number of nights being spent in the capital have contributed towards an almost continuous ten-year increase in revenue for the city's hotels. Figures from the National Statistics Institute (INE) show that last year, revenue raised through tourism was of €586.958.367, an 8.3 percent growth on results from 2012. In 2004 revenue was of €517.455.053. One main contributing factor to the growth in the number of tourists visiting Lisbon is believed to be the growth in the number of passengers arriving on international flights at Lisbon's Portela Airport. A study by the Espírito Santo group has shown an annual rise in passengers over the past seven years of almost six percent.

Progressão temática

Writing coherent paragraphs involves linking sentences within paragraphs and making links between paragraphs. Coherence develops through two systems of language: Theme and Reference. In English, the starting point of a clause and therefore a sentence is called the **Theme**. The Theme gives a focus or establishes an orientation for the reader.

The oil industry affects our everyday life in many ways.

When **the price of oil** rises, **after a short delay** the price of petrol rises too.

Types of Themes

1. Nominal group

Fossil fuels are the basis of the petrochemical industries.

The Chernobyl disaster occurred in 1986.

2. Prepositional phrase or adverbial group – may give background information

In the late 1930s and the 1940s the octane rating of fuel became important as the military sought higher output for aircraft engines.

Currently, many countries set limits on gasoline aromatics in general, benzene in particular, and olefin (alkene) content.

In Brazil, the Brazilian National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP) requires gasoline for automobile use to have from 18 to 25% of ethanol added to its composition

3. Verbs in commands

Select the Print Monitor icon in the system folder.

Choose an alternative method.

4. Multiples themes
 - a. With conjunctions – to link clauses and show the logical relation between them

Subsequently, **the next strategy** is to regulate the industry.

However, **this** would involve a great deal of government finance.

When **the price of oil** rises, **after a short delay** the price of petrol rises too.

- b. With attitudinal adjuncts

Clearly, **the solution** is not straightforward.

Unfortunately, **no funds** are yet available.

Everything else in the clause that is not Theme is called the Rheme. The Rheme introduces information that is **NEW** to the reader or develops the Theme. The selection of Theme contributes to the development of ideas within a paragraph.

Theme	Rheme
In North America <i>while</i> petrol	the term gasoline is often shortened in colloquial usage to gas, is the common name in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Australia and in most of the other Commonwealth countries.
Under normal conditions	its physical state is a liquid, unlike liquified petroleum gas or natural gas.

Padrões de progressão temática

1. Constant or parallel Theme pattern

Theme	Rheme
Gasoline or petrol	is a transparent, petroleum-derived oil that is used primarily as a fuel in internal combustion engines.
It	consists mostly of organic compounds obtained by the fractional distillation of petroleum, enhanced with a variety of additives.
Some gasolines	also contain ethanol as an alternative fuel..

2. Zig-zag pattern

Theme	Rheme
Gasoline,	as delivered at the pump, also contains additives to reduce internal engine carbon buildups, improve combustion, and to allow easier starting in cold climates.
High levels of detergent	can be found in Top Tier Detergent Gasolines.
These gasolines	exceed the U.S. EPA's minimum requirement for detergent content.

3. Sub-point or fan pattern

Theme	Rheme
Octane rating in gasoline	is measured relative to a mixture of 2,2,4-trimethylpentane (an isomer of octane) and n-heptane.
There so a fuel	are different conventions for expressing octane ratings, may have several different octane ratings based on the measure used.
Research octane number (RON) for commercially-available gasoline	varies by country .
In Finland, Sweden and Norway,	95 RON is the standard for regular unleaded gasoline and 98 RON is also available as a more expensive option.
In the UK,	ordinary regular unleaded gasoline is 91 RON (not commonly available), premium unleaded gasoline is always 95 RON, and super unleaded is usually 97-98 RON.
However, both Shell and BP	produce fuel at 102 RON for cars with high-performance engines,
and the supermarket chain Tesco	began in 2006 to sell super unleaded gasoline rated at 99 RON.
In the US,	octane ratings in unleaded fuels can vary between 86 and 87 AKI (91-92 RON) for regular, through 89-90 AKI (94-95 RON) for mid-grade (European premium), up to 90-94 AKI (95-99 RON) for premium (European super).

In any paragraph you may find one or more patterns. Note how in the example for the fan pattern, deviations from the pattern are marked by a multiple theme with the conjunctions *However* and *and*.

Exercise 2. Underline each Theme. Identify the type of Theme: nominal group, prepositional phrase, verb in command or multiple Theme.

Wine is expected to register a total volume CAGR of 2% over the forecast period to reach 478 million litres in 2020. This positive performance is set to be a major improvement on the total volume CAGR of -3% witnessed over the review period, when the Portuguese economic crisis resulted in contracting demand for wine. Nevertheless, the Portuguese economy has shown some signs of improvement in recent years with positive GDP growth and declining unemployment. This recovery is expected to continue building during the review period, positively impacting sales of wine. In addition, strong investment in improving production quality is set to encourage higher consumption from more discerning consumers.

<http://www.euromonitor.com/wine-in-portugal/report>

Exercise 3. Multiple Themes help guide the reader to understand the logical relationships between clauses as the paragraph develops. Circle the best conjunction to complete the multiple Theme. Identify the kind of relation (e.g. cause/effect; purpose; contrast; addition; concession; etc.).

Nowadays it is very common to work with people from many countries. The globalization process has made it easier to work abroad than a few years ago. Investors buy companies **and/but/also people** look for new experiences and better opportunities around the world. **Then/But/As a result conflicts** between foreign employees are part of the work environment. The case study about the difficulty of French and American engineers working together illustrates cultural differences. The American engineers are more practical and like to work fast. They want to solve the problems and think about other future possibilities. **So/Although/However, the French engineers** believe that they need to analyse the process more carefully, **thus/because/and this** will save money **and/because/so the company** will have fewer problems with their products.

Exercise 4. The following paragraph is poorly organised because the choice of Theme does not follow any expected pattern. Rewrite it. You may need to make changes to the structure and vocabulary choices of the rewritten sentences.

- a. The use of modern technology can reduce work time. Information can be processed with great speed and computers can process more information than humans. In addition, troublesome and complicated work is made easy by computers. Email also allows us to communicate easily with others in different countries. Moreover, CAT scans help doctors to gather and analyse images of a patient's tissue structure. This image can make operations easier.

The use of modern technology	can reduce work time.
Information	can be processed with great speed
and computers	can process more information than humans.
In addition, troublesome and complicated work	is made easy by computers.
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Moreover, CAT scans	help doctors to gather and analyse images of a patient's tissue structure.
This image	can make operations easier.

Recursos de coesão

Condensing information into a nominal group

One technique to help create cohesive texts is to condense previous information that was realised as a clause or more into a nominal group. This technique is useful to create a Theme that becomes the subject of the clause. The noun that encapsulates the previous information can do so by means of **generalising** or by **reformulating the information in a more abstract way**.

Generalising often uses a noun that labels a class:

e.g. this **furniture**; **dairy products**, these **manufactured goods**

or one that labels components, parts or characteristics:

e.g. these **factors**; these **features**;

Abstraction usually relies on **nominalisation**, i.e. reformulating a verb or adjective as a noun. Nominalisations are common to condense information as a *scientific or technical concept*:

e.g. this **demand** and **supply**; the **erosion**; the ill **health** in remote areas.

Reference nouns are also nominalisations. Reference nouns not only condense information often expressed as a clause or sentence, but they also usually interpret it. A reference noun can *encode a point of view*:

e.g. this **problem**; these **issues**; **solution**, such an **argument**, this **perspective**, this **possibility**

or *label cause and effect relationships*:

e.g. these **reasons**; this **influence**; these **implications**, this **result**

or *refer to ways or strategies*:

e.g. this **approach**; such **strategies**; this **process**

or *identify similarity or difference*:

e.g. these **differences**, this **similarity**, this **diversity**.

Exercise 5

Identify the Themes that encapsulate information previously realised as a clause. Identify the technique – generalising or abstraction – and the kind of noun used – general noun, technical/scientific concept noun or reference noun.

Wine is expected to register a total volume CAGR of 2% over the forecast period to reach 478 million litres in 2020. This positive performance is set to be a major improvement on the total volume CAGR of -3% witnessed over the review period, when the Portuguese economic crisis resulted in contracting demand for wine. Nevertheless, the Portuguese economy has shown some signs of improvement in recent years with positive GDP growth and declining unemployment. This recovery is expected to continue building during the review period, positively impacting sales of wine. In addition, strong investment in improving production quality is set to encourage higher consumption from more discerning consumers.

<http://www.euromonitor.com/wine-in-portugal/report>

Exercise 6

Choose the best nominal group to encapsulate the information of the previous sentences. Identify if the link is via generalisation or abstraction.

1. Low-cost travellers are finding it increasingly easy to get to Lisbon, Continental Europe's western-most capital city. Ryanair Holdings Plc, Europe's largest discount airline, and EasyJet Plc both have hubs in Lisbon.

This cheap access / Travelling by plane / These budget airlines

2. Lonely Planet travel guides rated Lisbon as one of its most reasonably priced destinations last year.

The cheap restaurants / The comparatively low prices / Lisbon

3. In the Baixa area of Lisbon, many streets have recently sprouted shops selling cheap imitation Portuguese items that were actually made in China.

The proliferation of these souvenir shops / Souvenir shops / This cheap produce

4. In the souvenir shops it is now possible to find cork hats, cork shoes, cork wallets, and even cork umbrellas.

These products / This innovation / Cork

5. Some residents in the Alfama have complained that they feel as if they were living in a zoo. The propensity of tourists to look through the windows and doors into their houses has become so common that one man considered turning his house into a living museum.

The problem / The Alfama locals / Tourism

Exercise 7

Condense the information into a nominal group to create the Theme of the next clause. Finish the clause and sentence. Hint: what is the nominal form of the verbs? Is there a good synonym for it?

1. Statistics Portugal said that the number of foreign tourists reached 10.18 million in 2015, a rise of ten percent on the previous year, while the number of domestic tourists rose by seven percent to 7.3 million. Overall, hotel revenues rose by more than 13 percent.
2. Nobody knows what the tourists actually do in Lisbon.
3. Tuk-tuks have invaded all of central Lisbon. While they offer tourists a unique way to see the city, unfortunately, not all of them are electric. The petrol-engine ones spew toxic fumes and drown out the noise of the rest of the traffic.

Recursos de “reference, substitution” e “ellipsis”

Reference

Reference items enable us to track a participant (e.g. a person, place, thing, entity, or idea) through the text. Once a participant has been presented, it is usually identified with presuming reference, which tells the reader that they know who or what is being referred to. Presumed participants can be identified in different ways. The following examples are taken from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/mobile/business/904748.stm>. The referent is in italics, and the presuming reference is in bold.

1. Definite determiner

the

Big movements in *oil price* have significant ramifications around the world. But just what makes **the price** move and how do the oil markets work?

2. Personal pronouns & possessives

I / me / my / mine / you / your / yours / he / him / his / she / her / hers / it / its / we / us / our / ours / they / them / their / theirs

Crude oil comes in many varieties and qualities, depending on **its** specific gravity and sulphur content which depend on where **it** has been pumped from.

Futures contracts are only traded on regulated exchanges and are settled (paid) daily, based on **their** current value in the marketplace.

3. Demonstratives

this / that / these / those / here / there / now / then

If no other information is given, an oil price appearing in UK and other European media reports will probably refer to the price of *a barrel of Brent blend crude oil from the North Sea sold at London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE)*. **This** would commonly be in a futures contract for delivery in the following month.

4. A participant can be presumed through comparison with a previous participant.

another / other / more

Because there are so many different varieties and grades of crude oil, buyers and sellers have found it easier to refer to a limited number of *reference, or benchmark, crude oils*. **Other varieties** are then priced at a discount or premium, according to their quality. (Other varieties of crude oil that are not reference or benchmark crude oils)

In the Gulf, Dubai crude is used as a benchmark to price sales of **other** regional crudes into Asia. (Other regional crudes that are not Dubai crude)

5. Presuming reference (definite determiner or demonstratives) often combines with general nouns and reference nouns.

e.g. process / problem / idea / advantage / diversity

If no other information is given, an oil price appearing in UK and other European media reports will probably refer to the price of a barrel of Brent blend crude oil from the North Sea sold at London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE). This would commonly be in a *futures contract* for delivery in the following month. In **this type of transaction**, the buyer agrees to take delivery and the seller agrees to provide a fixed amount of oil at a pre-arranged price at a specified location. (general noun = more generalised category)

Opec controls the amount of oil it pumps into the market place. This practice enables it to keep the basket price within a predetermined range. [adapted] (reference noun [way or strategy] = Opec's practice of controlling the amount of oil it pumps into the market place)

Substitution and ellipsis

Participants and processes (verbs or verb + complement) can be substituted (replaced) or elided (left out). In both cases, a more specific reference is considered superfluous.

	Substitution	Ellipsis
participant	one / ones	∅
process	do / do so	∅

Global production of biofuels is growing steadily and will continue to **do so**. (continue to *grow steadily* - substitution)

<http://www.scidev.net/global/capacity-building/opinion/biofuels-benefits-and-risks-for-developing-countr.html>

In the Gulf, Dubai crude is used as a benchmark to price sales of other regional crudes into Asia. This is not because there are more supplies of Dubai crude oil than of any other grade - there are not - but because **it** is one of the few Gulf crudes available in single, on the spot, sales as opposed to long term supply contracts. However, if **supplies** became extremely limited and price swings became exaggerated, a new benchmark would have to be found. (supplies of *Dubai crude* - ellipsis)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/mobile/business/904748.stm>

Exercise 8.

Identify the referent of the underlined nominal groups. What does 'does' (in bold) substitute?

The precious and versatile vegetable tissue known as cork is the outer bark of the cork oak tree, *Quercus suber*, or as the Portuguese call it, sobreiro). Cork (*cortiça*) is most easily stripped off the tree in late spring and summer when the cells are turgid and fragile and tear without being damaged. The tree quickly forms new layers of cork and restores its protective barrier. No tree is cut down. This simple fact makes cork harvesting exceptionally sustainable, leading to a unique balance between people and nature.

Cork has a structure that you can compare with that of a honeycomb. Every cm² consists of approximately 40 million cells. These cells, as well as the spaces in between, are filled with a kind of gas resembling air, without CO₂. Thus, the cork cells work as small sound and heat insulators and absorb pressure and shocks. This is what makes cork so remarkable. Up till today there has not been found any other material which combines the same characteristics as cork **does**.

<http://www.saomarcosdaserra.com/cork.php>

Exercise 9.

The following paragraphs are poorly organised due to poor thematic progression. Rewrite them to improve the information flow. You may need to make changes to the structure and vocabulary choices of the rewritten sentences. Underline the changes you make to the text.

- a. Shell had three advertising campaigns, starting in 2005 until 2008. They improved and reinforced the image they wish to project over time. ...

In 2006 Shell had another campaign that was focused on the idea of sustainability and renewable energies. This had the objective of showing people that they could trust Shell to satisfy their needs with their products, and at the same time, show that these products would be as environmentally oriented as possible. The reason of these campaigns is the criticism that the company received because of their disregard for the preservation of the environment.

- b. Energy is important to do work and is required for life processes. An energy resource is something that can produce heat, power life, move objects, or produce electricity. Our earth gets most of its energy from the sun. Fossil fuels rely on the sun's energy, because the energy in fossil fuels comes from plants and algae as they performed photosynthesis. Humans exploit the fossil fuels and the first oil was drilled in 1859.

c.

	Manufactures exports	Fuel exports	Ores and metals exports	Agricultural raw materials exports	Food exports
Brazil	53.88%	6.11%	9.8%	3.9%	26.3%
Russia	19.9%	40.01%	6.79%	2.7%	1.61%
India	70.32%	11.4%	6.85%	1.54%	8.89%
China	91.8%	2.3%	1.86%	0.52%	3.32%

Looking to the figures, the main thing that we can see is the highest manufactures exports of Brazil, India and china. China is the biggest manufactures exporter, reaching 91%, and that is easy to predict because of all Chinese shops that we can see all around Portugal and other countries. As we can see, Russia isn't a big manufacture exporter, their main export is the fuel, which reaches 49%. About Brazil, we can see that they export mainly manufactured products (53%) but also food (26%) because of their weather, which is suitable to plant many types of food like fruits, which are the most known. A sector that has during the years lost importance is the agriculture sector, and as we can see, the agriculture raw materials is the less exported of the BRIC countries. The biggest exporter is Brazil with only 3.9%. Ores and metals are goods exported by BRICS too but they don't have much influence like agriculture. The main ores and metal exporter is Brazil with 9.8%, which is just a little bit more than China, with 2%, which is the country that exports less.