

Advanced 1
Unit 4: Writing
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Classification Paragraphs

In a classification paragraph, we put forward different types of a phenomenon.

Key Words in Classification Paragraphs:

kinds

types

classes

factors

elements

groups

characteristics

aspects

divisions

subdivisions

categories

parts

Development Methods of Classification Paragraphs:

Ascending Order

We put forward the factors from the least important to the most important. In other words, the importance of the given factors increases.

ascend = go up; increase

Descending Order

We put forward the factors from the most important to the least important. In other words, the importance of the given factors decreases.

descend = go down; decrease

Decide which of the following paragraphs has a descending order and which one follows an ascending one.



Astronomers use three basic types of telescopes to explore the vastness of space. The refractor telescope uses two lenses, one to collect light from a distant object and bring it into focus, and another in the eyepiece to magnify the image. Second, there is the reflector telescope, which makes use of a concave mirror instead of a lens to reflect light rays to the upper end of the telescope. Last, and perhaps the most important in terms of studying phenomena outside the earth's atmosphere, is the radio telescope, which gathers waves with a wire antenna serving as a parabolic reflecting surface. The discovery of mysterious quasars and pulsars was made possible by this kind of telescope.

Ascending Order

Of the ten largest cities in the United States in the late 1980s, three are located in the state of Texas. Of these, Houston, which ranks fourth in the country, has the biggest population with 1,705,697 residents. Next comes Dallas, which has 974,243 people and is the seventh largest city in the U.S. The smallest Texas city on the top-ten list is San Antonio, ranking tenth among U.S. cities and having a population of 842,779.



Descending Order

Here's an example of a classification paragraph with ascending order:

Ascending Order:

The animal kingdom is a vast and diverse realm, classified into various groups based on shared characteristics. At the base of this hierarchy are the invertebrates, creatures without a backbone, like insects and mollusks, which are numerous and varied. Moving up, we encounter the fish, the first vertebrates, adapted to life in water with their streamlined bodies and gills. Above them are the amphibians, which bridge the gap between aquatic and terrestrial life, capable of living both in water and on land. Higher still are the reptiles, which have conquered dry habitats with their scaly skin and egg-laying capabilities. Nearing the top are the birds, masters of the sky, with feathers and wings that allow them to soar to great heights. At the pinnacle are the mammals, characterized by their warm-blooded nature, fur or hair, and the unique ability to nourish their young with milk.

Now, let's rewrite the same paragraph in descending order:

Descending Order:

The animal kingdom is a complex tapestry of life, organized into distinct classes based on common traits. At the apex are the mammals, warm-blooded and covered in fur or hair, distinguished by their maternal care through lactation. Just below them are the birds, avian wonders with feathers and wings, conquering the heavens with their flight. The reptiles follow, thriving in arid environments with their tough, scaly skin and reproductive efficiency. Next are the amphibians, dual residents of water and land, symbolizing the evolutionary transition to terrestrial living. Lower down are the fish, the original vertebrates, perfectly adapted to aquatic existence with their gills and fins. At the foundation lie the invertebrates, a diverse group lacking a spinal column, encompassing a multitude of species from insects to mollusks.

These paragraphs classify animals based on their evolutionary complexity, starting from the simplest to the most complex in ascending order, and vice versa for descending order.

A Classification Paragraph on Different Kinds of Countries

There are three types of countries in the world. Some countries are underdeveloped and have weak economies. In these countries, most of people live under the poverty line and they suffer from famine and disease. The infrastructures of underdeveloped countries are not sufficient for the whole population and many people are deprived of electricity and clean water. On the other hand, some countries are developed and have stable economies. They have modern infrastructures which are accessible to the public. The majority of people live in comfort and benefit from social services. Yet there are some countries which lie somewhere in between. Their economies are developing and their infrastructures are being modernized. Their economies are growing and there are opportunities for people from different classes of the society. Then based on economic factors, the countries of the world are underdeveloped, developing or developed.

Source:

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