

**High-Intermediate 3**  
**Unit 5: Writing**  
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**Unity**

In paragraph development, **unity** means that **all the sentences in the paragraph work together to support one single main idea**. Unity means every sentence in a paragraph contributes to the same single main idea. There is nothing extra, nothing off-topic.

**Why it matters:**

A unified paragraph is easy to follow, makes a strong point, and doesn't confuse the reader.

If a paragraph has unity:

- It starts with a **topic sentence** that clearly expresses the main point.
- Every other sentence explains, gives examples, or provides details about *that* main point — no unrelated ideas sneak in.
- Nothing in the paragraph drifts off-topic or introduces a new idea that should belong in another paragraph.

**Example of unity (good):**

Many people prefer reading e-books because they are convenient. You can store thousands of books in a single device. They are lightweight and easy to carry. You can even adjust the font size for comfortable reading...

*(All sentences talk about why e-books are convenient.)*

**Example of poor unity (bad):**

Many people prefer reading e-books because they are convenient. You can store thousands of books in a single device. My favorite color is blue. They are lightweight and easy to carry...

*(“My favorite color is blue” has nothing to do with the main idea — it breaks unity.)*

## How to Check if a Paragraph Has Unity

### 1. Identify the main idea

- Look for the **topic sentence** (usually the first sentence, but not always).
- Ask yourself: *What is the one thing this paragraph is about?*

### 2. Examine each sentence

- Does it explain, describe, or support the main idea?
- If it changes the subject, it breaks unity.

### 3. Spot “off-topic” ideas

- Any sentence that doesn’t connect directly to the main point should be removed or moved to a different paragraph.

### 4. Read it as a whole

- Does it feel focused from beginning to end?
- Or do you feel a “mental bump” where the topic suddenly changes?

## Quick Unity Checklist

- ✓ One clear main idea (expressed or implied).
- ✓ A topic sentence that signals the main idea.
- ✓ All supporting sentences relate to that one idea.
- ✓ No irrelevant details or side stories.
- ✓ Smooth logical flow without topic shifts.