


# Classification Paragraph



L2 Written Expression

Group: 8

Teacher: Ms. Ghennai



Think about the types of the students in your class.


How many types you can categorize them into?

Check out the comic on the following slide and answer the following questions:

- How many types of students does the comic present?
- Which one are you?
- What is the characteristic which the comic artist used to differentiate between the students?
- Are they classified according to their appearance? activeness? punctuality? Their behaviour during exams?

# 21 TYPES OF STUDENT





The comic is funny, and it represents the variety of students we encounter in our groups. However, it lacks one important trait for a clear classification, which is to have a defining characteristic.

In this lesson you will learn:

- ▶ What a classification paragraph is.
- ▶ What makes clear classifications.
- ▶ The organization of a classification paragraph.
- ▶ Transition words in a classification paragraph.

# What is a classification paragraph ?

Classification is one of the useful tools in organizing information.

To **classify** is to sort out persons, places, things, or ideas into groups, categories or classes based on their characteristics.

**The subject** for classification is the topic you want to set into categories. It is a plural subject (Students, teachers, movies, books, pain medications, etc.).

The classes of a certain subject are determined and distinguished from one another by **a principle**. **A principle** is The concern or the controlling idea upon which the classification is made. It represents how the differentiating characteristics of each class are made.

For example:

**Subject:** students

**Principle:** cheating in exams

**Classes:** Students who refuse to cheat, occasional cheaters, professional cheaters.

# The Organization of Classification Paragraph

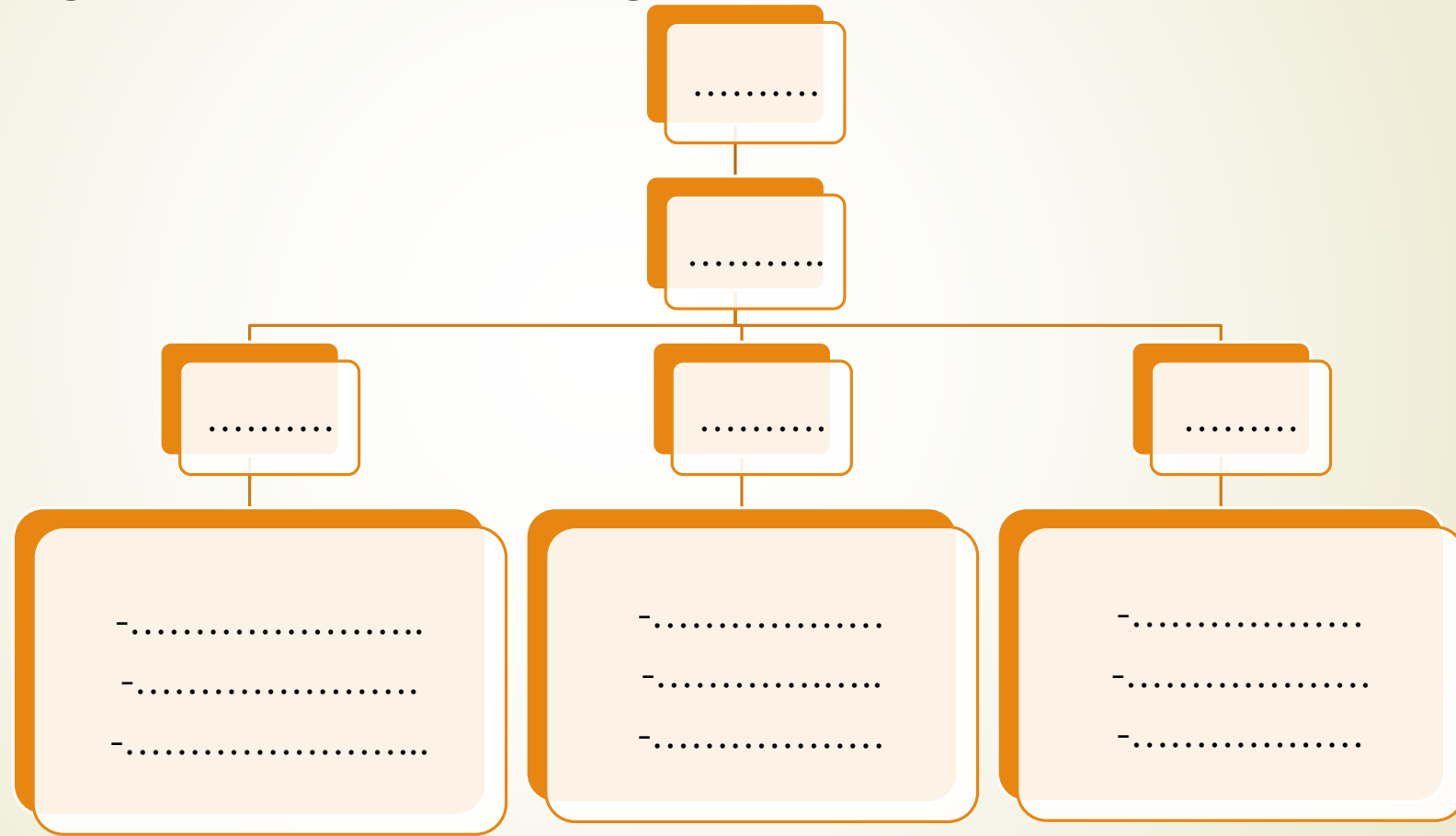
► Read Paragraph (1) and fill in the diagram.

Subject

Principle

Classes

Examples of each class





## Paragraph (1)

Since I have been working as a cashier at Wal-Mart, I have discovered there are several kinds of customers who drive me crazy. First are the openly rude ones. They frown and make loud, sarcastic comments about how long the line is and how long they have been waiting. They throw their money on the counter and never say hello or acknowledge me as anything but human scum. They are just plain rude. I am embarrassed for myself, but I'm also embarrassed for them. Second are the silent but obviously impatient customers. Although they do not say anything, I am aware of them from the time they get in line. They make faces, roll their eyes, and look at their watches every ten seconds. What do they expect? This is Wal-Mart; there are always lines. The third kind is really my least favorite: suspicious customers who watch my every move as if my goal in life is to overcharge them. They turn the monitor so they can see every price, but that is not enough. After looking at the price there, they lean over the counter toward me and look at what price comes up on the register. Then, their heads snap back to look at the monitor. They clearly do not trust me and are just waiting for me to make a mistake, at which point they will jump all over me. This kind of customer makes me nervous and a lot more likely to mess up. If you are one of these three kinds of customers, remember me next time you are at Wal-Mart; I'm the one just trying to do my job, and you are driving me crazy!

— Joyce Kenneally

# The Organization of Classification Paragraph

Read Paragraph (1) again and do the following:

- **Write down the topic sentence.**

.....  
.....

- **Circle the subject and underline the principle.**

- **Write down the concluding sentence.**

.....  
.....

- **Describe how is the concluding sentence related to the paragraph.**

.....  
.....



# The Organization of Classification Paragraph

- **Topic sentence**

In classification, the topic sentence can take one of these forms:

The first states the subject and organizing principle (controlling idea)

As a Walmart cashier, there are several kinds of customers who drive me crazy.

Subject

Principle

The second states the subject, the organizing principle and the classes

As a Walmart cashier, there are several kinds of customers who drive me crazy including the openly rude, the silent

Subject

Principle

Classes

but impatient and the suspicious ones.

- **Supporting sentences**

Supporting sentences in classification paragraph consist of the classes, explanation of each class as well as the examples of things that fit into each class. The classes need to have a specific form of organization such as time order, space, number, preference ..., etc. In Paragraph (1) It could be noticed that the writer orders them by preference moving towards the least favourite, which is the third class: *'The third kind is really my least favorite: suspicious customers who watch my every move as if my goal in life is to overcharge them'*.

- **Concluding sentence**

A restatement of the topic sentence. It could also refer back to the classification's principle and the classes, and/ or it makes an observation concerning the classes.



# Transition in Classification Paragraph

- ▶ Read Paragraph (1) again and write down the transition signals used to introduce each of the classes.

.....

.....

.....

# Transition in Classification Paragraph

## Paragraph (1)

Since I have been working as a cashier at Wal-Mart, I have discovered there are several kinds of customers who drive me crazy. First are the openly rude ones. They frown and make loud, sarcastic comments about how long the line is and how long they have been waiting. They throw their money on the counter and never say hello or acknowledge me as anything but human scum. They are just plain rude. I am embarrassed for myself, but I'm also embarrassed for them. Second are the silent but obviously impatient customers. Although they do not say anything, I am aware of them from the time they get in line. They make faces, roll their eyes, and look at their watches every ten seconds. What do they expect? This is Wal-Mart; there are always lines. The third kind is really my least favorite: suspicious customers who watch my every move as if my goal in life is to overcharge them. They turn the monitor so they can see every price, but that is not enough. After looking at the price there, they lean over the counter toward me and look at what price comes up on the register. Then, their heads snap back to look at the monitor. They clearly do not trust me and are just waiting for me to make a mistake, at which point they will jump all over me. This kind of customer makes me nervous and a lot more likely to mess up. If you are one of these three kinds of customers, remember me next time you are at Wal-Mart; I'm the one just trying to do my job, and you are driving me crazy!

— Joyce Kenneally



# Transition in Classification Paragraph

Consider using the following transition words to improve coherence by connecting ideas with ideas, sentences with sentences and to introduce classes.

The first class, the second class, the third class, another class, ...

# Transition in Classification Paragraph

- Fill in paragraph (2) with appropriate transition words

Customers at Target have different aims for shopping . Specifically, I can group most of them into three classes: the looking shoppers, the sales shoppers, and the special-item shoppers. ...., which is the largest, is the *looking shoppers*. One can see them wandering around all over the store as if they were lost or maybe out for exercise. They stop for discoveries here and there, but they don't want to be bothered by salespersons. They're pretty harmless, except sometimes they bump into each other. They quite infrequently buy something. ...., the *sales shoppers*, are the ones who have read the advertisements. They may even be carrying an advertisement with them, matching pictures and numbers with items. If a salesperson can help them get to the merchandise before someone else does, they're grateful; otherwise, get out of their way. They are single-minded and ruthless. Beware of verbal assaults and vicious bodily contact at the sales tables. ....is my favorite. It is the *special-item shoppers*. They know what they want, but they would like good quality and a good price. They are usually friendly, and they are appreciative of good service. On a given day, one person may move from one group to another, and when the person does, his or her behavior changes. After serving more than three thousand customers, I can identify and classify them almost immediately.

-José Morales

# Tips on writing a classification paragraph

- ▶ Determine the principle of your classification.
- ▶ Determine the categories of your classification, making sure that there is no overlap in the categories. Make sure an item or a person won't fit into more than one category.
- ▶ Avoid missing categories. Make sure your categories account for all the types of your subject. It wouldn't be accurate to leave out or miss some categories.

# Assignment

Through out the course of your study at university, you have studied with and encountered many types of students. Write a paragraph in which you describe the different types of students in your university, department or class. Classify them according to a principle ( differentiating characteristics) of your choice. Use the following diagram to facilitate organizing your ideas.

**Subject**

Students in my university/ department/  
class

**Principle**

.....

**Classes**

.....

.....

.....

**Examples of  
each class**

-.....  
-.....  
-.....

-.....  
-.....  
-.....

-.....  
-.....  
-.....

# Answer Key

## The Organization of Classification Paragraph Paragraph (1)

**Subject**

**Principle**

**Classes**

**Examples of  
each class**





# The Organization of Classification Paragraph

Paragraph (1)

- Write down the topic sentence.
- Circle the subject and underline the principle.

Since I have been working as a cashier at Wal-Mart, I have discovered there are several kinds of customers who drive me crazy.

- Write down the concluding sentence.

If you are one of these three kinds of customers, remember me next time you are at Wal-Mart; I'm the one just trying to do my job, and you are driving me crazy!

- Describe how is the concluding sentence related to the paragraph.

It restates the topic sentence. It mentions the subject and the principle. It also makes an observation 'I'm the one just trying to do my job'.

# Transition in Classification Paragraph

Paragraph (1)

- ▶ Read Paragraph (1) again and write down the transition signals used to introduce each of the classes.
- **First**
- **Second**
- **The third kind**

# Transition in Classification Paragraph

Paragraph (2)

► Fill in paragraph (2) with appropriate transition words.

Possible answers

- The first group
- The next group
- The last group



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