

# Reading and writing complex texts

# About your writing

Task of previous exercise:

1. Specify the day's date
2. Write 3 paragraphs about your day

# Observations

- 1) Only 2 persons wrote down the date (follow instructions, please!)
- 2) For many of you, PARAGRAPH is not a clear concept.

A **paragraph** is a brief piece of writing that's around seven to ten sentences long. It has a topic sentence and supporting sentences that all relate closely to the topic sentence. The **paragraph** form refers to its overall structure, which is a group of sentences focusing on a single topic.

## American and European styles

What day is this?

**3 / 5 / 18**

 March 5, 2018

 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

**Big difference!**

## Writing the date

We write the date in English in different ways. The most common way in British English is to write the day of the month first, then the month (starting with a capital letter) and then the year:

<i>20 January 1993</i>	<i>14 November 2005</i>
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We can also write the date in numbers only:

<i>20 January 1993 = 20/1/1993</i>	<i>14 November 2005 = 14-11-2005 or 14.11.05</i>
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Sometimes the last two letters of the number as spoken can be used (*th, rd, st, nd*):

*Today is the 7th September.*

*The grand opening is on 1st June. or ... on June 1st.*

With the exception of May and June, months can be shortened as follows:

*Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec.*

## Dates in American English

In written American English, the month of the date comes before the day and year. For example, Independence Day in the USA is on July 4th each year. In the year 2000 the date was 4/7/2000 in British English. In American English this is written 7/4/2000.

## **My day**

(anonymous text)

Exercise: Try to find the mistakes and correct them

I woke up at 7:30 a.m. today. After ten minutes, I had breakfast and I drank a coffee with milk. Before going to university I washed my self and I dressed. At 8:20 a.m. I took the car and I went to university.

My lessons started at 9:00 a.m. The first lesson was mathematical analysis. This lesson was long two hours.

After I followed the Geometry course. Geometry lasted two hours too. This course was very boring today, also because I.m very tired. In fact I slept little this night. I went to canteen at 13.00 p.m. and I ate pizza. Today I had only one hour of lunch break but sometimes I have two hours. At 14.00 p.m. it started the English lesson.

At 1600 p.m. I will finish the courses of English and at 18.00 p.m. I will play football with my team.

I'm going to go in restaurant this evening but I'm not sure about this yet. I hope I'll go out to dinner tonight.

My day  
(anonymous text)

Note the red highlighting

I woke up at **7:30 a.m.** today. After ten minutes, I had breakfast and I drank a coffee with milk. Before **going to university** I washed **my self** and **I dressed**. At 8:20 a.m. I took the car and **I went to university**.

My lessons started at **9:00 a.m.** The first lesson was **mathematical analysis**. This lesson was long two hours.

**After** I followed the Geometry course. Geometry lasted two hours too. This course was very boring today, **also** because I'm very tired. In fact I slept little **this** night. I went **to canteen** at **13.00 p.m.** and I ate pizza. Today I had only one hour of lunch break **but** sometimes I have two hours. At **14.00 p.m.** **it** started the English lesson.

At 1600 p.m. I will finish **the courses of English** and at **18.00 p.m.** I will play football with my team.

I'm going to go in restaurant this evening **but** I'm not sure about this yet. I hope I'll go out to dinner tonight.

Trieste, 23 October 2019.

My day  
(a better version)

I woke up at 7:30 today. After ten minutes, I had breakfast and a coffee with milk. Before going to the university I washed myself and I got dressed.

At 8:20 a.m. I took the car and I went to the university.

My lessons started at 9:00. The first lesson was Mathematical Analysis. This lesson was two-hours long.

After that, I followed the Geometry course. Geometry lasted two hours too. This course was very boring today, maybe because I was very tired. In fact I slept very little last night. I went to the canteen at 13.00 and I ate pizza. Today I had only one hour lunch break, but sometimes I have two hours. At 14.00 the English lesson started.

At 16:00 I will finish the English course, and at 18.00 I will play football with my team. I'm going to go to a restaurant this evening, but I'm not sure about this yet. I hope I'll go out to dinner tonight.



**12-hour am-pm clock**

**and**

**24-hour military time**

12-hour am-pm clock	24-hour military time
12:00 midnight	00:00
1:00 am	01:00
2:00 am	02:00
3:00 am	03:00
4:00 am	04:00
5:00 am	05:00
6:00 am	06:00
7:00 am	07:00
8:00 am	08:00
9:00 am	09:00
10:00 am	10:00
11:00 am	11:00
12:00 pm	12:00
1:00 pm	13:00
2:00 pm	14:00
3:00 pm	15:00
4:00 pm	16:00
5:00 pm	17:00
6:00 pm	18:00
7:00 pm	19:00
8:00 pm	20:00
9:00 pm	21:00
10:00 pm	22:00
11:00 pm	23:00
12:00 midnight	24:00

# Reading

**Reading** is a complex cognitive process of decoding symbols to derive meaning. It is a form of language processing.

**Success in this process is measured as *reading comprehension*.**

Reading is a means for language acquisition, communication, and sharing information and ideas.

Exercise:

Analysis of the text Brain  
Scan Satoshi Nakamoto.

A photocopy of this text  
was handed out in class.



**BRAIN SCAN** Satoshi Nakamoto

Bitcoin's enigmatic creator may never be identified.

ON PAPER—or at least on the blockchain—Satoshi Nakamoto is one of the richest people on the planet. Bitcoin is a semi-anonymous currency and Mr Nakamoto is a pseudonymous person, so it is hard to be sure; but he is generally reckoned to own around 1.1m bitcoin, or around 5% of the total number that will ever exist. When bitcoin hit its peak of over \$19,000, that made him worth around \$20bn.

But Mr Nakamoto, though actively involved with his brainchild in its early history, has been silent since 2011. An army of amateur detectives has been trying to work out who he really is, but there is frustratingly little to go on. While developing bitcoin he claimed to be male, in his late 30s and living in Japan, but even that information is suspect. There are indications that he may have lived in an American time zone, but his English occasionally contains British idioms. Some of his goldbug-like comments about central banks that “debase the currency” and the evils of fractional-reserve banking led early cyber-libertarian bitcoin enthusiasts to claim him as one of their own. One thing is certain: he values his privacy. To register Bitcoin.org he used Tor, an online track-covering tool used by black-marketeters, journalists and political dissidents.

Connectors

or

Discourse  
markers

<b><u>ADDING</u></b> and also as well as moreover too furthermore additionally	<b><u>SEQUENCING</u></b> first, second, third... finally next meanwhile after then subsequently	<b><u>ILLUSTRATING</u></b> for example such as for instance in the case of as revealed by... illustrated by	<b><u>CAUSE and EFFECT</u></b> because so therefore thus consequently hence
<b><u>COMPARING</u></b> similarly likewise as with like equally in the same way..	<b><u>QUALIFYING</u></b> but however although unless except apart from as long as if	<b><u>CONTRASTING</u></b> whereas instead of alternatively otherwise unlike on the other hand.. conversely	<b><u>EMPHASISING</u></b> above all in particular especially significantly indeed notably

## BRAIN SCAN Satoshi Nakamoto

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ON PAPER—or at least on the **blockchain**—Satoshi Nakamoto is one of the richest people on the planet. Bitcoin is a **semi-anonymous currency** and Mr Nakamoto is a **pseudonymous** person, so it is hard to be sure; but he is generally **reckoned** to own around 1.1m bitcoin, or around 5% of the total number that will ever exist. When bitcoin hit its peak of over \$19,000, that made him worth around \$20bn.

**But** Mr Nakamoto, **though** actively involved with his **brainchild** in its early history, has been silent since 2011. An army of amateur detectives has been trying to work out who he really is, **but** there is frustratingly little to go on. **While** developing bitcoin he claimed to be male, in his late 30s and living in Japan, **but** even that information is suspect. There are indications that he may have lived in an American time zone, **but** his English occasionally contains British idioms. Some of his **goldbug-like** comments about central banks that “debase the currency” and the evils of **fractional-reserve banking** led early **cyber-libertarian bitcoin enthusiasts** to claim him as one of their own. One thing is certain: he values his privacy. To register Bitcoin.org he used **Tor**,

To register Bitcoin.org he used **Tor**, an **online track-covering tool** used by black-marketeters, journalists and political dissidents.

**Still**, the legions of **sleuths** have turned up various candidates, ranging from Japanese mathematicians to Irish graduate students. In 2014 Newsweek, a business magazine, **fingered** Dorian Prentice Satoshi Nakamoto, an American engineer. He emphatically denied the story, **and** the next day a forum account previously used by Mr. Nakamoto, posted, for the first time in five years, to say, "I am not Dorian Nakamoto" -**though** there are doubts about that account too.

Attention also focused on Hal Finney, an expert in **cryptography**, an experienced programmer and a dedicated **cypherpunk**. He was the recipient in the **first-ever transaction** conducted in bitcoin, with Mr Nakamoto as the sender. He died in 2014. Andy Greenberg, a journalist, who studied private emails between Mr Finney and Mr Nakamoto, concluded that he was probably not bitcoin's creator. **And** Mr Finney himself always denied that he was Mr Nakamoto.

**Conversely**, in 2016, Craig Wright, an Australian computer scientist, explicitly claimed that he was the man everyone was looking for. He invited several news organisations, including The Economist, to witness him prove his claim by using cryptographic keys that supposedly belonged to Mr Nakamoto. He did not convince his audience, **so** he said he would settle the matter by moving a bitcoin from Mr Nakamoto **stash**. He later decided against it when an online story suggested he could face arrest if he confirmed he was bitcoin's creator, on the ground of "enabling terrorism". **But** the story turned out to be a fake.

According to another theory, Mr Nakamoto is actually a group of people. **But** for now his, or their identity, remains a mystery. Some think his **withdrawal** was a matter of principle, to underline the point of a decentralised currency. **Perhaps** he simply wants a quiet life.

## Colour legend of analysed text:

**Yellow:** New vocabulary

**Green:** the discourse markers that “glue together” the elements in a text.

**Blue:** Multiple adjectives + nouns phrases.