



# SPaG Paragraphing

## Activity 1

- Read through the paragraph.
- Consider how to organise the text into effective paragraphs.
- Make annotations to show how you make decisions about paragraphs, eg. 'Emphasise this part of the text'.

## Activity 2

Add to your previous annotations identifying any other structural features that the writer has included. Make a comment for each about why they are important.

She glanced at the letter which had sat on the bottom step since that morning, then stepped out of her front door, quietly closing it behind her. Turning the key in the door, she heard the soft click of the lock before reaching behind and placing it in her back pocket. She inhaled deeply once, in through her nose, and out through her mouth. With one last quick stretch upwards, she began to run. Usually, she would run listening to music specifically matched to her pace, aligning the beats of the music with the pounding of her feet on the pavement. But not today. She had so many thoughts pummeling her mind that she knew she wouldn't be able to concentrate. Today's run wasn't about her pace; it was simply about making sense of everything that had happened that morning. Why did it happen this way? Why did it even have to happen at all? She breathed out heavily, tears burning the edges of her eyes. With her next intake of breath, the need to cry evaporated as she continued to push through. She's my twin sister. My best friend. This is going to create such a big divide between us. After this, things just won't be the same. As her feet continued to pound the pavement ahead, the memory of that morning had filled her mind. How she and Sarah had both waited eagerly for the arrival of the postman. How they had excitedly pulled their letters from the letterbox and ripped open their envelopes. Natasha's eyes had filled with tears of joy, scanning the page and taking in the joy of her acceptance into Oxford University. "Mum! I did it. I got in!" She jumped up and down with delight, shaking her letter in the air. But, as she slowly turned, she saw the devastation in Sarah's face and instantly knew that she hadn't met with the same success.



# SPaG Paragraphing Answers

## Activity 1:

She glanced at the letter which had sat on the bottom step since that morning, then stepped out of her front door, quietly closing it behind her. Turning the key in the door, she heard the soft click of the lock before reaching behind and placing it in her back pocket. She inhaled deeply once, in through her nose, and out through her mouth. With one last quick stretch upwards, she began to run.

**NP narrowing in to the reason for running** Usually, she would run listening to music specifically matched to her pace, aligning the beats of the music with the pounding of her feet on the pavement. But not today. She had so many thoughts pummelling her mind that she knew she wouldn't be able to concentrate. Today's run wasn't about her pace; it was simply about making sense of everything that had happened that morning.

**NP for internal thoughts of character** Why did it happen this way? Why did it even have to happen at all? She breathed out heavily, tears burning the edges of her eyes. With her next intake of breath, the need to cry evaporated as she continued to push through. She's my twin sister. My best friend. This is going to create such a big divide between us. After this, things just won't be the same.

**NP for flashback** As her feet continued to pound the pavement ahead, the memory of that morning had filled her mind. How she and Sarah had both waited eagerly for the arrival of the postman. How they had excitedly pulled their letters from the letterbox and ripped open their envelopes. Natasha's eyes had filled with tears of joy, scanning the page and taking in the joy of her acceptance into Oxford University.

**NP for dialogue** "Mum! I did it. I got in!"

She jumped up and down with delight, shaking her letter in the air. But, as she slowly turned, she saw the devastation in Sarah's face and instantly knew that she hadn't met with the same success.

## Activity 2:

Specifically linked to structural terminology relevant to AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1 Question on structure

### Answers could include:

- Withholding information of the event and identity of main character
- Cyclical structure returning to the letter from the beginning of the extract
- Zooming in to her tears
- Time shift during flashback
- Shift of topic from Natasha's success to Laura's disappointment
- Zooming out