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ENGLISH
WRITTEN PROFICIENCY
INTERMEDIATE 1

NHÀ XUẤT BẢN ĐẠI HỌC THÁI NGUYÊN
NĂM 2010

Mã số: $\frac{03-37}{ĐHTN - 2009}$

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INTRODUCTION

English Written Proficiency Intermediate 1 is a course book intended for learners who have finished their pre-intermediate level which usually refers to those who have learned English for at least three years at upper secondary schools. However, it is not the only book used in this course but together with another book – **Cause and Effect**. This book is designed and compiled basing on the types of paragraph writing that learners are supposed to be able to fulfill. It focuses on three types of paragraphs namely descriptive, narrative and expository. It contains four units, each of which is divided into two correlated parts. The reading part aims at not only improving students' reading skills and widening their vocabulary but also assisting the writing part by providing it with relevant language input. The writing part helps learners develop their competence in writing paragraphs of those types.

The main aim of the course is to help learners write complete paragraphs with unity and coherence, but sentence writing and some grammar exercises are also practiced throughout the book. At the end of the course, learners are supposed to be able to...

- understand what is and is not a paragraph,
- recognize the topic or main idea of a paragraph,
- comprehend the text message without depending much on the dictionary,
- develop their own strategies for widening their vocabulary,
- notice the typical features of each type of paragraph,
- and write a complete paragraph with unity and coherence.

TO THE LEARNERS

In order to fulfill the course efficiently the learners must ...

1. strictly follow the teacher's instructions,
2. attend the class regularly,
3. have an exercise book for reading and a separate one for writing assignment apart from the notebook they use in class,
4. do all the assignments given by the teacher,
5. actively work in pairs or groups,
6. be ready to critically give feedback to their classmates' writing and reading assignments,
7. have their own strategies of learning new words,
8. be aware of self development,
9. thoroughly understand the objectives of the course,
10. and most importantly, set their own learning objectives.

UNIT ONE

THE PARAGRAPH

In this unit you will learn how to ...

- distinguish between a paragraph and a group of jumble sentences,
- recognize the topic and the topic sentence of a paragraph,
- grasp the structure of a paragraph,
- write the topic sentence, supporting sentences and the concluding sentence,
- write a complete paragraph with unity and coherence.

PART ONE: READING

Understanding Paragraphs

Distinguish between a paragraph and what is not a paragraph.

Exercise 1: Read the following stretches of language and answer the questions below them.

1. In the Trobriand Islands, people do not celebrate birthdays. When a boy is about 14 or 15, he moves out of his parents' house. Each canoe takes about 18 months to make. Boys and girls may live together for periods of days, weeks, or months. Most islanders have no idea when they were born or how old they are. That way, they have a chance to find out if they are the right people for each other. When it is finally finished, it is named and special ceremonies are held to give it magic powers. This is also about the age that he begins to work on his own garden.

2. In the Trobriand Islands, the yam is both an important food plant and an important part of the culture. Every village has a "yam house" with a giant four-foot yam hanging from the ceiling. It represents wealth and well-being for the village, life and strength for the people. Villagers take great pride in their gardens, especially their yam plants. The yam harvest is one of the high points of the year and also the focus for many traditions. For example, the harvest is always carried out by women. When they are bringing the yams in from the garden all together, no man is supposed to meet them. Anyman they meet will be chased, attacked, and treated as a fool.

1. Is each of these groups of sentences about one topic?

2. What is the biggest difference between them?

The paragraph

Exercise 2:

A. Define what a paragraph is

B. What are the basic parts of a paragraph?

Exercise 3: Read the following groups of sentences. Decide which one is a paragraph and which one is not. Say why and why not.

3. Iceland is not a place for the ordinary tourist. The landscape, first of all, is bare and strange—though many consider it beautiful, too. Then, too, the far northern climate is not ideal for tourism. The winter weather is extremely severe and the summers are short and cool, with

constant strong winds. The remote location also means that many products have to be imported and so they are expensive. However, the few tourists who do put up with these difficulties are warmly welcomed by the Icelanders.

4. For fewer tourists, lower prices, and more beautiful scenery, head for the Sagres Peninsula. The regional museum has a rich collection of costumes, weapons, and handicrafts. Buses will get you to most places, but for long trips, trains are cheaper and more comfortable. The Portuguese economy has expanded very rapidly in recent years, but it still has many problems. In the 15th century, Lisbon was a worldwide center of political power, religion, and culture.

5. The two peoples of Belgium—the Flemish and the Walloons—are divided by language, culture, and economics. Hotels in Brussels are expensive, so most young travelers stay in youth hostels or student hotels. In Antwerp, the home of Rubens, you can visit the house where he lived and worked. Throughout the centuries, Belgium has been the scene of many terrible battles between world powers. In many parts of the world, the Belgians are best known for their chocolate and their beer. Ships to England leave either from Oostende or from Zeebrugge.

6. To an outsider, Istanbul may at first seem like a Western city. The Western dress, the many new buildings, the traffic problems all make the city seem very modern. But there is another side to this great city—its rich past as the capital of the Ottoman Empire. In the narrow back streets, the bazaars, and the mosques, this past seems very near and real. And the spectacular mosques are evidence of the city's important role in history of Islam as well.

A paragraph is defined as a group of sentences that develops one main idea; in other words, it develops a topic. A topic is the subject of the paragraph; it is what the paragraph is about.