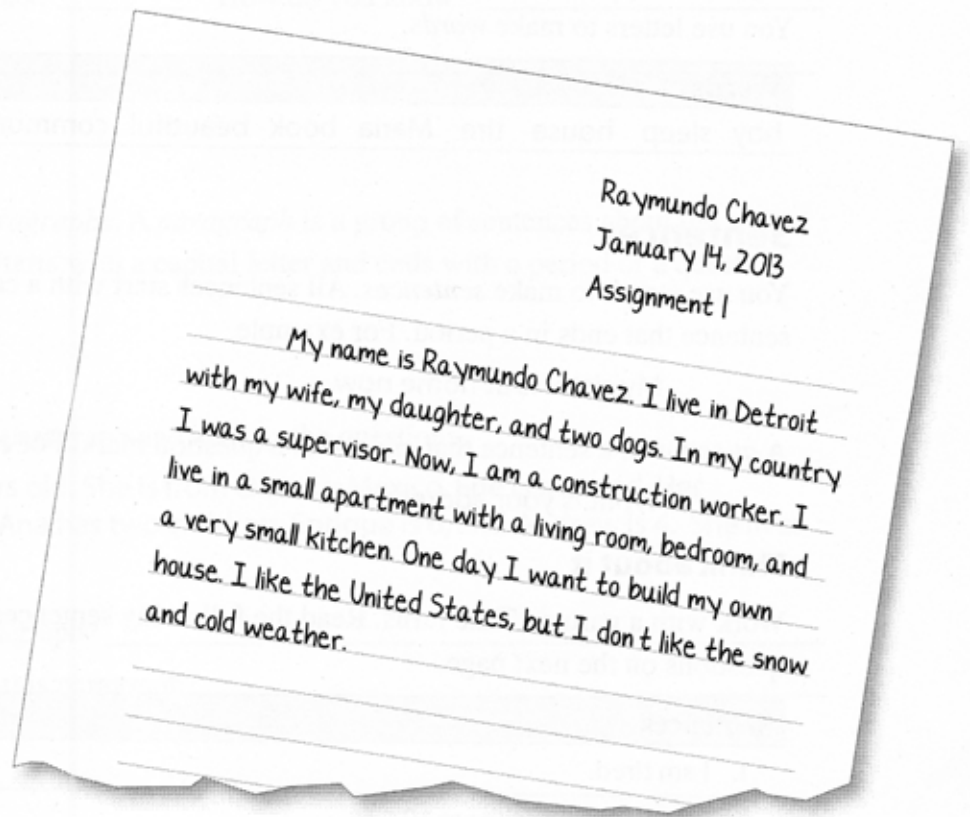


Chapter 1

All About Me

In this chapter you'll write about yourself.



Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. Where does Raymundo live? _____

2. What is Raymundo's job? _____

3. What is Raymundo's dream? _____

4. Does Raymundo like the cold weather? _____

Letters and words

The English alphabet has 26 *letters*.

Letters	
capital letters	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
small letters	a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

You use letters to make *words*.

Words
boy sleep house tire Maria book beautiful communication

Sentences

You use *words* to make *sentences*. All sentences start with a capital letter. A *statement* is a sentence that ends in a period. For example,

My sister is at home now.

A *question* is a sentence that ends with a question mark. For example,

What is your address?

Think about it

Work with a partner. Take turns. Read the following sentences out loud. Then answer the questions on the next page.

Sentences
1. I am tired.
2. The museum opens at 10 a.m.
3. Are you tired today?
4. Celia has two jobs.
5. How many students are there in your class?
6. I need to wash my clothes, dry my clothes, and sweep the floor.
7. You need to work tomorrow because Angela is on vacation.
8. Does your boss speak English?

1. Which is the longest sentence? How many words does it have? _____

2. Which is the shortest sentence? How many words does it have? _____

3. Which sentences are questions? _____ How do you know? _____

Paragraphs

You use sentences to make *paragraphs*. A *paragraph* is a group of sentences about the same idea or *topic*. Every sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a period or a question mark.

Think about it

Work with a partner. Read the paragraph and answer the questions.

Ana Cerda is 31 years old. She is from Oaxaca, Mexico. She is married. Her husband's name is Sam. Ana has two children. Enrique is 6, and Andrew is 4. She lives in Denver, Colorado.

1. What is the topic of this paragraph? _____
2. How many sentences are in this paragraph? _____

Paragraphs and lists

A paragraph is not a list. This is a list.

My name is Victoria Alvarez.

I'm from Miami, Florida.

I'm 24 years old.

I'm a baby sitter.

I want to be a teacher.

This is a paragraph.

My name is Victoria Alvarez. I'm from Miami, Florida. I'm 24 years old. I'm a babysitter. I want to be a teacher.

Chapter 1: All About Me

Practice 1.1: This is a list. Write it as a paragraph.

1. My name is James Phan.
2. I am from Vietnam.
3. I am 21 years old.
4. I live with two roommates.
5. I'm a construction worker.
6. I want to get my GED.

My name is James Phan. I am from

Think about it

Work with a partner. Identify each item in the table below. Write *word*, *sentence* or *paragraph*.

	What is this?
1. mother	word
2. The sky is blue.	
3. You use grapes to make wine. Green grapes make white wine and purple grapes make red wine. Many different kinds of grapes grow in California.	
4. Who is the president of your country?	
5. The San Francisco Zoo is a very nice place to visit. There are many animals there including monkeys, elephants, lions, and tigers. The zoo is open seven days a week. Children under two are free.	
6. Hawaii	
7. At the grocery store, I need to buy milk, cheese, chicken, potatoes, eggs, bread, juice, cereal, and ice cream.	
8. Life in the United States is good, but it is difficult. I have two jobs. I go to school. I am very busy.	
9. What is your favorite color?	
10. All students need to arrive at school on time. If you can't attend, call the	

More about paragraphs

Read this paragraph.

The Golden Gate Bridge is very famous. It connects San Francisco and Marin County. The bridge opened in 1937. The bridge is orange so that ships can see it. About 100,000 vehicles cross the bridge every day.

Notice the following:

- All of the sentences are about the same topic, the Golden Gate Bridge.
- The second sentence continues on the first line. It does not start on a new line.
- There are five sentences in this paragraph.

Think about it

Work with a partner. Cross out the sentence that is not about the same topic as the other sentences. The first one is done for you.

Paragraph 1

My sister is a pediatrician. She takes care of children. She works in a large clinic. ~~My brother lives in Mexico City.~~ My sister works hard. She works long hours. She sometimes works seven days a week. Fortunately, she also earns a lot of money.

Paragraph 2

Los Angeles is very warm. The average temperature is 66 degrees during the day and 57 degrees at night. Los Angeles also is very dry. It only rains about 35 days each year. I like to swim. In Los Angeles the coldest month of the year is January. Of course, it never snows in Los Angeles.

Paragraph 3

I like to go to the Lincoln Park Zoo with my husband and my daughter. I like to see the lions, tigers, and giraffes. My daughter likes the monkeys best. My daughter likes to play soccer. My husband likes the elephants best. I want to go to the zoo next month to see the animals.

Paragraph 4

Many teachers in the United States give homework every night. Some parents think homework is a good idea. They think that students need to study at home. Other parents don't like homework. They say that children should study at school and relax at home. My daughter is in fifth grade.

Paragraph 5

The first days of college can be very difficult. College campuses often are large. Students sometimes get lost. College classes can be large too. Some students are afraid to speak to their teachers. But college gets easier. Belmont Community College is a great college. The secret is to ask your teachers questions. Your teachers want to help you.

Writing multiple paragraphs

There are two ways of showing paragraphs: *indented paragraphs* and *block paragraphs*. Look at the following examples.

Indented paragraphs

My Boyfriend, the Cook

My boyfriend Zach is a fantastic cook. He isn't a cook in a restaurant. He is a cook for his friends. He likes to cook breakfast, lunch, and dinner. When we have parties, Zach makes great food for everyone.

For breakfast, Zach makes delicious pancakes. His pancakes always have a special ingredient. He sometimes adds fruit like strawberries or peaches. He sometimes adds nuts or chocolate.

Zach loves salsa. But he never buys salsa. He always makes it. He often puts chiles in his salsa. It is very spicy.

I'm lucky to have a boyfriend who is a good cook. The problem is that I gained ten pounds.

Block paragraphs

My Boyfriend, the Cook

My boyfriend Zach is a fantastic cook. He isn't a cook in a restaurant. He is a cook for his friends. He likes to cook breakfast, lunch, and dinner. When we have parties, Zach makes great food for everyone.

For breakfast Zach makes delicious pancakes. His pancakes always have a special ingredient. He sometimes adds fruit like strawberries or peaches. He sometimes adds nuts or chocolate.

Zach loves salsa. But he never buys salsa. He always makes it. He often puts chiles in his salsa. It is very spicy.

I'm lucky to have a boyfriend who is a good cook. The problem is that I gained ten pounds.

Think about it

Work with a partner. Answer these questions about the story on the previous page.

1. Do indented paragraphs have a blank line after each paragraph? _____
2. Do block paragraphs have a blank line after each paragraph? _____
3. How many paragraphs are in the story *My Boyfriend, the Cook*? _____
4. How many sentences are in the first paragraph? _____
5. How many sentences are in the second paragraph? _____
6. How many sentences are in the third paragraph? _____
7. How many sentences are in the fourth paragraph? _____
8. What is the topic of the first paragraph? (Underline the best answer.)
 - a. The author's boyfriend is a good cook
 - b. The author likes to cook
 - c. The author has a nice boyfriend
9. What is the topic of the second paragraph? (Underline the best answer.)
 - a. Zach's pancakes
 - b. Zach's favorite things to cook
 - c. What Zach eats for breakfast
10. What is the topic of the third paragraph? (Underline the best answer.)
 - a. Spicy food
 - b. Zach's salsa
 - c. Mangos
11. What is the topic of the fourth paragraph? (Underline the best answer.)
 - a. The author likes to cook.
 - b. The author is overweight
 - c. The author is happy because her boyfriend is a good cook.
12. What is the topic of this story? (Underline the best answer.)
 - a. How to gain weight
 - b. Zach, a very good cook
 - c. How to make good pancakes
13. Look at a newspaper or book. Does it use indented paragraphs or block paragraphs?

Chapter 1: All About Me

Practice 1.2: Read each paragraph. Then underline the information in the box that is included in each paragraph. The first item is underlined for you.

Paragraph 1

I want to introduce myself. My name is Gerardo Gomez. I am from El Salvador. I am married. I have one daughter. Her name is Erika. I am a construction worker. I want to be a carpenter. I played soccer every Saturday in my country. Now I am too busy.

<u>name</u>	goal
marital status	where he lives
family	hobbies
native country	languages
current job	school/college
age	friends

Paragraph 2

I want to introduce myself. My name is Raymundo Garcia. I am 21 years old. I'm a student at Omaha City College. I want to be a nurse. I am single. I live with two friends in an apartment in Omaha.

name	goal
marital status	where he lives
family	hobbies
native country	languages
current job	school/college
age	friends

Paragraph 3

I want to introduce myself. My name is Anita Lopez. I live in Seattle with my daughter and my sister. I love to cook. In my country, I owned a restaurant. It was called Dos Tamales. One day I want to open a restaurant in the United States.

name	goal
marital status	where she lives
family	hobbies
native country	languages
current job	school/college
age	friends

Paragraph 4

I want to introduce myself. My name is May Trong. I live in San Francisco. I am single. I live with my sister. My parents live in Los Angeles. I love to draw and I like the museums in San Francisco. I am a graphic designer.

name	goal
marital status	where she lives
family	hobbies
native country	languages
current job	school/college
age	friends

Talk about it

Ask your partner the following questions:

1. What is your name?
2. What is your marital status?
3. How old are you?
4. What are your hobbies?
5. Where do you live?
6. What languages do you speak?

Writing Assignment 1: Preparing to write

Write 6 or more sentences about yourself. Use the paragraphs on the previous page as examples.

1. My name is _____
2. I am from _____
3. I speak _____
4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____
