

EXPANDED PARAGRAPHS

So far you have been writing five-sentence paragraphs with a topic sentence, three supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence. Now, if you want to give more information about each one of your supporting ideas, you will need to write several sentences. In that case, you need a way of letting your reader know when you are moving from one idea to the next. Here's how to do it.

- Start with a topic sentence.
- Use the word *first*; then tell all about your first supporting idea.
- Use the word *next*; then tell all about your next supporting idea.
- Use the word *last*; then tell all about your last supporting idea.
- End with your concluding sentence.

Words such as *first*, *next*, and *last* are called **transitions**. You can think of them as signals that let the reader know that you have finished writing about one supporting idea and are moving on to your next idea.

The following paragraph is an example of an expanded paragraph. Underline the topic sentence and the conclusion. Circle the three transitions.

A New Puppy

A new puppy is a lot of trouble. First, it makes a lot of noise. Whenever it is left alone it cries and makes enough noise to disturb even the neighbors. A puppy sometimes keeps everybody in the family awake at night. Next, puppies love to chew things. They especially like shoes and socks. They chew up newspapers and magazines and even books. They also chew on the edges of carpets. Nothing in the house is safe. Last, new puppies are not housebroken. You have to spend a lot of time cleaning up after them. A puppy is a lot of trouble, but it is worth it because it soon grows up to be a dog, and nothing is more wonderful than your own dog.

Did you notice that each transition has a comma after it?

