Paragraphs

• How to combine sentences?
• How to begin paragraphs?
• How to link paragraphs to each other?
• Introductory paragraphs (at the beginning of a chapter/section)
Combining sentences in a paragraph

1. Use (but do not overuse!) conjunctions or transitional words:
   - Time links, when you describe a process: then, next, first-second-third, while, ...
   - Cause-effect links, when you describe reasons or results: therefore, as a result, thus, ...
   - Addition links, when you add points: in addition, moreover, similarly, ...
   - Contrast links, when you describe two sides of one thing: however, despite (=in-spite of sg), ...
   - Other: For example,...
2. Link the beginning of a sentence to the end of the previous sentence. E.g. the subject of sentence 2 is the object of sentence 1. ”A model consists of a model structure and model parameters. The model structure defines...”

3. Repeat the key terms throughout the paragraph. However, do not repeat the same word twice in one sentence.

**Task**: Search useful expressions from the text extract given to you!
Dividing a headline into paragraphs

Logical structure

Logically structured disposition (topic outline) is the most important thing in writing!

Analogy: software engineering

→ Spend time and write the disposition carefully!
An iterative process

1. The main structure of the whole thesis: the main chapters and their contents in a couple of sentences or key words. The order of chapters.

2. For each chapter (or an article), the main headlines + key words, introductory sentences or phrases. The order of headlines.

3. In each headline, the subheadlines or paragraphs. The introductory sentences, key words, and the order of paragraphs. List the related tables and figures.

Mark the points you wish to emphasize!

Suggestion: put your disposition on one side for a while, before you begin writing.
A paragraph

The topic for each paragraph must be clearly stated – usually in the first sentence = **topic sentence**.

- Helps the reader: tells what the paragraph is about.
- Helps the writer: forces you to organize the material logically.
- In an ideal case, you get a summary of the whole headline by reading the topic sentences.
- If you cannot write a clear topic sentence, ask yourself whether the paragraph is needed at all!
Other good advice:

• Never begin with unimportant words. The beginning of a paragraph is the most important.

• Omit superfluous phrases like "First let us consider...”  
  ”An interesting example which must be mentioned in this context is...”  
  ”Next it must be noted that...”

• Emphasize important things by  
  – telling them in the beginning of a paragraph or beginning of a sentence,  
  – expressing them in short sentences,  
  – repeating the key words, or  
  – numbering.

• Keep the same verb tense (change it only for good reasons).

• Express parallel things in parallel structures.
Introductory paragraphs

In the beginning of each chapter or section, give 1-2 introductory paragraphs.

- Tell what the chapter or section is about.
- In the beginning of a chapter you can also introduce the main theme or problem and motivate the reader
- **Suggestion:** just one brief paragraph in the beginning of a headline, a longer or a couple of paragraphs in the beginning of a chapter.
E.g. for the section ”Correlation analysis”:

”In the following, we recall the most common measure for correlation, Pearson correlation coefficient. We discuss restrictions and extensions of the common correlation analysis. Finally, we analyze the ViSCoS data by Pearson correlation and correlation ratios to reveal linear and non-linear dependencies.”
In the beginning of chapter ”Modelling dependencies between attributes” (could be briefer):

”The main goal of predictive modelling is to predict a target variable $Y$ from a set of other variables $X = \{X_1, ..., X_k\} \subseteq R$. Variables $X$ are called explanatory, because they explain $Y$. The existence of such model requires that $Y$ depends on $X$. Thus, the first step of modelling process is the descriptive analysis of dependencies between $Y$ and $X$. The task is two-fold: First, we should select an attribute set $X$ which best explains $Y$. Then we should analyze the type of dependency. Given this information, we can select the appropriate predictive modelling paradigm and define restrictions for the model structure.

In the following, we define the main types of dependencies for categorial and numeric data. We introduce three techniques (correlation analysis, correlation ratios, and multiple linear regression) for modelling dependencies in numeric data and four techniques ($\chi^2$ independence test,
mutual information, association rules, and Bayesian networks) for categorial data. In both cases we begin by analyzing pair-wise dependencies between two attributes, before we analyze dependencies between multiple attributes $X_1, ..., X_k$ and the target attribute $Y$. This approach has two benefits. First, we can avoid testing all $2^k$ dependencies between subsets of $\{X_1, ..., X_k\}$ and $Y$, if $Y$ turns out to be independent from some $X_i$. Second, this analysis can reveal important information about suitable model structures. For example, in some modelling paradigms, like multiple linear regression and naive Bayes model, the explanatory variables should be independent from each other. Finally, we analyze the suitability of described modelling techniques for educational domain.”
Genitive: ’s or of?

Default: For animate things (people and animals) ’s: possessor’s possessed (in plural possessors’ possessed). For inanimate things of structure: the possessed of possessor.

Nowadays, ’s genitive can be used also for inanimate things, especially in certain special cases.

However, never use ’s genitive for abstract things!

”The meaning of life”, ”The time complexity of algorithm X”.
Special cases where ’s genitive is used for unanimate things

1. Temporal expressions: ”two weeks’ holiday”, ”an hour’s work”. However, in some expressions only of is possible: ”in the middle of August”.

2. Sometimes when the noun is geographical (country or city): ”London’s sights”. However, if the target expresses place (town, city, kingdom, island), then of: ”The city of Joensuu”

3. When the noun expresses place and is followed by superlative: ”The world’s best computer games”.

4. When possessor is a collective noun, ’s is often used, but of is also possible: ”The board’s decision”.
5. When you express part–whole relation, ’s is often used, especially in body parts ”the car’s doors”, ”the cat’s whiskers”.

**Hint**: If the possessed necessarily belongs to the possessor → ’s, if the possessed can exist alone → **of**.

6. Some special phrases: ”For goodness’ sake”. 
When of structure is necessary

’s genitive makes the possessed noun definite, i.e. possessor’s possessed = the possessed of possessor.

→ definite article the in the of genitive.

If you want to express that the possessed is indefinite (one of many), of genitive is the only choice!

”a son of the mayor”.
Possessive form of pronouns

- When the possessor is a pronoun, use the possessive pronouns!

  \{my, your, her/his, its, our, your, their\} + possessed.

- If the possessive pronoun is not followed by noun, then special forms:

  \{mine, your, hers/his, ours, yours, theirs\}.

  (In spoken language e.g. ”Whose cat is this? It is mine.”)

- In some special cases (rarely) you can use structure ”of it” (referring to unanimate things) to emphasize the possessed.

  ”I don’t remember the name of it.”