



Building Blocks

Linking ideas across paragraphs using adverbials of time, place, number and tense choices.



Here is a selection of paragraphs for you to use as building blocks – can you build a story from these paragraphs? Cut them out, reorder them and stick them down. Highlight the adverbs which help to link the paragraphs when you have finished.

Above, the budgie was circling the light bulb and squawking at the same time. It seemed to be getting quicker. The cage door hung open.	Below there was chaos. The dog barked madly, pulling at its lead which attached it to the door. The cat was hissing at the dog and the budgie.
After the sound of breaking glass woke him, the animal's owner James appeared at the living room door. He was sleepy from working a night shift, but managed to shout, 'what on earth is going on here? Stop it!'	Whenever the dog barked, the cat hissed. Whenever the cat hissed, the budgie doubled its speed.
Sometimes in the past, the cat and dog had been friends. Now it was war. The cat leapt on to the dog's back while the dog tried unsuccessfully to buck it off.	Before things calmed down, they got worse. The budgie began dive bombing the dog. The dog pulled its lead off the door and knocked over a table full of ornaments.
Normally this budgie was content to watch the world go by, but today was different. The budgie had been working and nibbling at its cage door all day. All of a sudden it opened and the budgie was free!	Rarely a day goes by without a domestic incident somewhere. It can be a simple accident or a case of animals going wild.
Next the cat took a swipe at the dog and got its claws stuck in the dogs collar. The dog shook its body wildly until the cat was launched across the room and into the fish tank. The cat climbed out quickly.	Often the animals ignored James but they had had enough. They returned to their places and practised looking as though the mess was nothing to do with them.



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Here is a selection of paragraph openers for you to use to construct a story. Each opener contains an adverb which will link the ideas in your paragraph to the previous one. Your linking adverb opener will guide you towards a way to finish each paragraph. The story features the following characters...

Try to include lots of detail about the way the story develops. Aim for at least three sentences in each paragraph. Jot your ideas down here and write your story on the next page.



Rarely a day goes by... 	Sometimes in the past...	Before things calmed down...
Normally this budgie was content...	Whenever the dog barked... 	Next, James...
Below there was chaos...	Above, the budgie... 	Often the animals ignored James...



