

## Paragraph writing practice...

Example number 1.

On 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1992, the 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of the queen and prince Philip, one of the worst fires in English history erupted in Windsor Castle, a royal palace and home to the royal family for over 800 years. At about 11:20 pm, an alarm was raised when fire was spotted at the top of a 15 foot curtain in the private chapel far above the reach of any fire extinguisher and later thought to be caused by a spotlight igniting the curtain's heavy material. The fire spread rapidly at roof level, destroying the ceilings of St George's Hall and the Grand Reception Room as well as gutting the the Private Chapel, the State Dining Room, the Crimson Drawing Room, the Green Drawing Room and other rooms in the northeast corner of the castle. With flames lighting the night sky as the world watched on live TV, the fire burned continuously for 15 hours at the cost of £2.3 million an hour or £38000 for every minute it lasted. At one point, the temperature at the foot of the Brunswick Tower which erupted in Vesuvius-like flames reached 800°C, or 1508°F.

Example number 2.

### **England recovered from the embarrassing Uefa Nations League loss to Greece at Wembley but were still not totally convincing as they finally overcame Finland in Helsinki.**

Interim manager Lee Carsley made six changes from the debacle against Greece, with goalkeeper Jordan Pickford replaced by Dean Henderson, but England failed to sparkle until the side ranked 64th in the world and without a point ran out of steam late on. The recalled Jack Grealish settled early England nerves with a cool finish from Angel Gomes' excellent pass in the 18th minute, and Finland missed chances to put Carsley and his side under further pressure before Trent Alexander-Arnold's brilliant late free-kick settled the game. Declan Rice scored from close range with six minutes left to give the scoreline a more satisfactory appearance for Carsley and England. Finland striker Fredrik Jensen was their biggest culprit as they tried to inflict more misery on England, missing good first-half opportunities before somehow turning an effort over the top from only six yards after the break. Alexander-Arnold, operating at left-back in another Carsley break from convention, provided a rare moment of quality in a game desperately lacking the commodity, curling a magnificent 25-yard free-kick high past Finland keeper Lukas Hradecky after 74 minutes. Finland, by then, were out on their feet and Rice stole in for an easy finish three minutes from time. The Finns at least delighted the packed 32,000 crowd and got the reward their gallant efforts deserved when Arttu Hoskonen scored as England failed to deal with a corner. Scruppy England finally get job done... England and interim manager Carsley will simply be glad for a win after the humiliation against Greece at Wembley, but they struggled to impress for long periods against the weakest side in their Uefa Nations League group. Anything other than victory was unthinkable against a courageous Finland and England will be grateful that Jensen somehow failed to find the target from only six yards with the goal at his mercy with the score only 1-0. Carsley demonstrated once again that he is not afraid to make the big calls by leaving out keeper Pickford, although he insisted it was always his intention to give Crystal Palace's Henderson his first start. He had little serious work but was at times uncertain with the ball at his feet, leaving long goal-kicks to team-mates. Alexander-Arnold was used in another experiment at left-back, where he was rarely troubled but demonstrated exactly what he brings to England with that magnificent free-kick. England at least had the shape and structure missing at Wembley, with Grealish once again confirming his rejuvenation this season with his second goal of the campaign, Carsley wisely ditching the wild experimentation he implemented to such ill-effect against Greece. This night was all about the win, which England duly secured, but it was not the sort of performance to brush away all of the questions surrounding Carsley and his future.

Example number 3.

### **1987: Hurricane winds batter southern England**

Southern Britain has begun a massive clear-up operation after the worst night of storms in living memory. At least 13 people are known to have died and many dozens have been injured, mostly by falling trees and buildings. Rescue workers faced an unprecedented number of call-outs as winds hit 94 mph (151 km/h) in the capital and over 110 mph (177 km/h) in the Channel Islands. Weather forecasters have faced criticism for failing to predict the severity of the weather. The worst affected areas were along the south coast - in Kent five people died including two seamen in Dover Harbour, and in Dorset two firemen were killed as they answered an emergency call. The stormy weather was first predicted at the beginning of the week when the Meteorological Office identified a depression strengthening over the Atlantic. Last night BBC weatherman Michael Fish reassured viewers the system would track along the English Channel, but instead it cut a swathe right across the south of the country. Commuters were today advised to stay at home as hundreds of roads and railway lines remain blocked by fallen trees. Some houses and apartments had their roofs blown off. On the Isle of Wight the famous Shanklin Pier, nearly a century old, was reduced to driftwood and in Jaywick, Essex, a caravan park was flattened. Along the south coast damage to yachts and boat yards was extensive. In Folkestone a Sea Link ferry was blown aground and its crew had to be rescued.

**Huge payouts :** The insurance industry is bracing itself for huge payouts. Most household policies cover storm damage, and thousands of homeowners have already started claims. In the London Borough of Ealing alone, 600 calls came from people whose homes and cars had been struck by falling trees and debris. Len Turner of Ealing Council said central funding from the government might be needed to deal with the exceptional clean-up costs local councils are facing. "It's going to take an enormous amount of effort and money; I hope we can look to the Government to support us because the burden on local rate payers is going to be enormous.

Example number 4.

The late Mr Clark lead a very regular life. He got up at six everyday, so when his windoes was open we knew it was six. He used to catch the same train to London, and set off at 20 past eight every morning. Mr Clark never returned home before four nor later than ten past four. As the school in the neighbourhood was over at five past four, mothers would expect their children to come back whenever Mr Clark appeared in the street walking towards his grey house. The light of Mr Clark's house went off at exactly half past ten every night. People said you didn't need to wear a watch if you lived in the street.