The background is a dark teal gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines connecting to small circles.

Identifying paragraph topics

Learning objectives

- ✓ **Identify the topic sentence in a reading passage**
- ✓ **Practise skimming and scanning**
- ✓ **Give the definition of the difficult words in the text**

What is a paragraph?

A paragraph has:

- Topic sentence
 - Supporting sentences
 - A concluding sentence
- ✓ A paragraph is made up of sentences
 - ✓ A paragraph should have at least three to five sentences
 - ✓ Each sentences relates to a single idea about the main topic
 - ✓ Paragraphs explain or describe something

WHAT IS A PASSAGE ?

- ✓ Passage can be defined as a part of paragraph, a part of a sentence or else it can also be called as a part of a few paragraphs.
- ✓ Basically, a passage is an extract from any piece of writing, which is taken to prove something about the present text that is in the process of development.
- ✓ The length of a passage differs from one context to another and also from one's purpose of extracting. For an example a passage can be a clause of a sentence, a few sentences or else it can also be a few paragraphs.

In a passage:

- Paragraphing is a logical way of dividing text.
- Paragraphs usually consist of several sentences which group similar information together.
- A break between paragraphs shows a change of topic, time or place.

Imagine: You are going to read a passage about an island.

Before you are going to read a passage about an island.

To get you in the mood jot down words associated with islands.

Create **mind map** to connect all the ideas that you can think of.

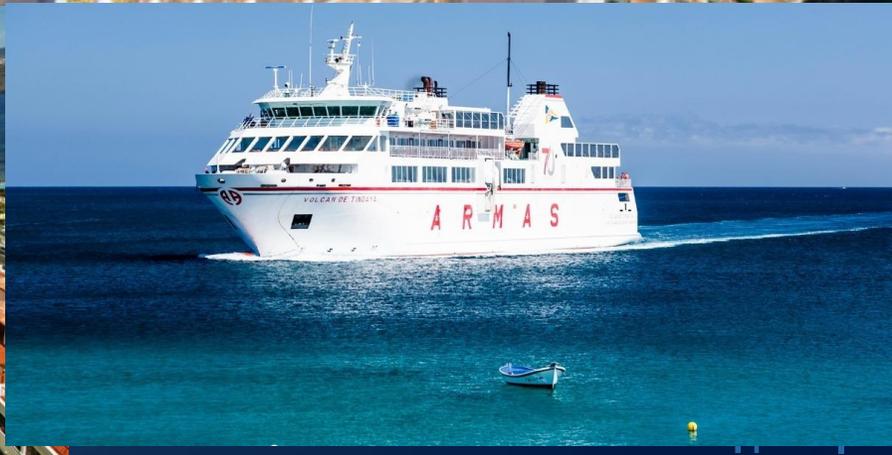
Looking at your mind map, think about possible answers to the following questions and contribute to a class discussion:

Which islands or types of island are you imagining?

Why are islands generally considered attractive?

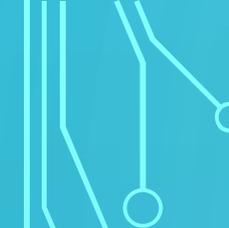
What are the disadvantage of living on or being on an island?

TAKING A TRIP ROUND TENERIFE

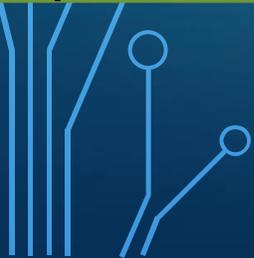


**Without looking at the passage, answer the following general questions about Tenerife.
Compare your answers with those of a partner, then check the passage to see what is right.**

1. What are the most noticeable features of the scenery?
2. What can tourists spend their time doing?
3. What is the temperature like?
4. What contributes to the economy?
5. What is there to see?



You should always read unseen passages twice.



First, **skim** the text to get the **gist** (the **genre** and main ideas and style features); then **scan** the text for specific information.

Skimming

Reading quickly through a passage or article in order to gain an overall understanding of its content, in particular by using clues from headlines, sub-headings, etc.

Scanning

Reading sections of the passage or article more closely once you have established the overall meaning by skimming, in order to ensure understanding of the most important points relating to the overall meaning.



The Spanish island of Tenerife lies about 300 km off the West African coast, and is the largest, most populous and most productive of the seven Canary Islands, believed to be named after the ferocious dogs (canaria) found there by early explorers. Santa Cruz is the capital of Tenerife, and the shared capital (with Las Palmas) of the whole archipelago.

This rugged, rocky and steep island looks up to El Teide, the third largest volcano in the world and the highest point in Spain at 3718 m. Its often-snow-covered peak gave the island its name, which means 'white mountain'. Ravines and valleys are another striking feature of Tenerife's terrain, some of them formed by volcanic eruptions, four of which were recorded between 1704 and 1909. The island has 342 km of coastline and boasts nearly 70 km of beach, the ones on the northern coast consisting of black sand rather than the lighter, finer sand of the south. The island has two distinct landscapes and atmospheres: the lush, green north and the barren, developed south.

Tenerife is known as the 'Island of Eternal Spring'; since it is on the same latitude as the Sahara Desert, it enjoys a warm climate and plenty of sunshine all year round. However, the trade winds create cloud and cold sea currents, keeping temperatures moderate, with an average of 13-18 °C in the winter and 24-28 °C in the summer.

The Canaries are one of the major tourist destinations in the world and tourism is Tenerife's main industry, with about 5 million visitors each year using one of its two airports. There are two main highways crossing the island, as well as dizzying narrow mountain roads in the north. Tourists mainly visit the south of the island, which is hotter and drier and has many resorts, such as Playa de las Americas and Los Cristianos. The only new hotels permitted to be built must be of 5-star quality to promote environmentally conscious development.

The area known as Costa Adeje has many world-class facilities and leisure activities to offer besides sea and sand, such as quality shopping centres, golf courses, restaurants, waterparks, animal parks and a theatre. In February, visitors can enjoy one of the world's largest carnivals. The distinctive local craft is Tenerife lace - the embroidery of stretched cloth for table linen - which visitors can see being made. Wildlife attractions are the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, opened in 2013, the botanical gardens in Puerto de la Cruz and a butterfly park in Icod de los Vinos.

Agriculture contributes only 10% to the island's economy but it supports the landscape and the cultural values of the island. In the coastal areas, tomatoes and bananas are cultivated, and these are exported to mainland Spain and the rest of Europe. At lower and drier altitudes, potatoes, tobacco and maize are the most common crops. Grapes are grown on steep north-facing slopes and onions in the south. Flowers are also produced for the export market. The islands are important to Spain as fishing grounds.

Tenerife has several archaeological sites, consisting mainly of the cave paintings prevalent in the south. Also noteworthy are the buildings called Guimar Pyramids, whose origin is uncertain, and the defensive castles located in the village of San Andres and elsewhere on the island. There are many other interesting historical buildings, such as the Convent of San Augustin and the Church of San Marcos. Other impressive but more modern structures are the Auditorio de Tenerife, at the entry port to the capital, and the Torres de Santa Cruz, a skyscraper 120 metres high.

There are pretty hill towns to look around, and from one of them, Masca, visitors can set off on the famous hike down the gorge. The gorge is full of rich vegetation, large and colourful plants, and a range of animal species. Garachico is a small, unspoilt fishing town whose quiet streets are dotted with bars, cafes and gift shops, and there are some superb fish restaurants down by the harbour. Sight-seeing in the nearby smaller town of Icod de los Vinos must include the island's most prized possession, the Dragon Tree, which stands in a preserved garden and is said to be approximately 1000 years old.

Task:1 Write down new words with definitions on your notebook and learn by heart.

For ex: **rugged** adjective (of land) wild and not even; not easy to travel over:

Task: 2 Scan the passage and find the **single word** in each paragraph which could be used as **a topic heading** for that paragraph.

For ex: Let's read again the first paragraph.

The first paragraph's topic heading can be:

Tenerife

The Spanish island of Tenerife lies about 300 km off the West African coast, and is the largest, most populous and most productive of the seven Canary Islands, believed to be named after the ferocious dogs (canaria) found there by early explorers. Santa Cruz is the capital of Tenerife, and the shared capital (with Las Palmas) of the whole archipelago.

Work smarter not harder



Difficult doesn't mean impossible. It simple means that you have to work hard but in a smart way.

In Australian and British English, 'practise' is the verb and 'practice' is the noun. In American English, 'practice' is both the verb and the noun.