

# Pre-Writing: Getting Ready to Write

In this unit, you will learn how to ...

- choose and narrow a topic.
- gather ideas.
- edit ideas.

## ➤ What is pre-writing?

Before you begin writing, you decide what you are going to write about. Then you plan what you are going to write. This process is called *pre-writing*.



## Choosing and narrowing a topic

### ➤ How to choose a topic for a paragraph

A paragraph is a group of five to ten sentences that give information about a topic. Before you write, you must choose a topic for your paragraph.

- Choose a topic that isn't too *narrow* (limited, brief). A narrow topic will not have enough ideas to write about. *The ages of my brothers and sisters* is too narrow. You can't write very much about it.
- Choose a topic that isn't too *broad* (general). A broad topic will have too many ideas for just one paragraph. Most paragraphs are five to ten sentences long. *Schools* is too general. There are thousands of things you could say about it.

A student could narrow this topic by choosing one aspect of schools to discuss.

*schools* → *high schools in my country*  
*popular school clubs*  
*university entrance exams*

### I Choose three topics from this list. Narrow each of the three down to a paragraph topic. Then compare with a partner.

- a. holidays
- b. friends
- c. my country
- d. dancing
- e. cars