

Revising a Paragraph

DIRECTIONS The following paragraphs have many of the problems reviewed in this section. On a separate sheet of paper, Rewrite and revise the paragraphs to improve style.

- Correct nonparallel structure.
- Correct stringy and wordy sentences.
- Vary sentence beginnings, and add or delete details as necessary.

1. Some people have the wrong idea about the dogs called poodles, and these people don't know much about the poodle breed. They think poodles are fancy, and they also think these dogs are useless and not good for anything, but this is far from true. Poodles were originally developed as a sporting breed. Poodles are used as retrievers, by police departments, and as Seeing Eye dogs. Poodles are smart and learn tricks very quickly, and so they also are used as performers in plays and circuses. Poodles are classified by three basic sizes. The basic sizes are standard, miniature, and toy.

[illegible]

2. People have been concerned about dental hygiene and keeping their teeth clean for hundreds and thousands of years. The Egyptians are one early example, for instance. They used a “chew stick,” and it was about the size of a pencil. This utensil was frayed at one end, being soft and brushlike. In China, later, people plucked bristles from the backs of the necks of hogs and attached them to handles made of bamboo, or they fastened them to handles made of bone. Hog bristles were too stiff for comfort for Europeans, and their preference was toothbrushes fabricated of horsehair, but new materials were necessitated because damp bristles cut the skin of the mouth and caused infections as one of the results. A toothbrush with gentle nylon bristles was sold in 1938, and it dried more easily between brushings, and this prevented bacterial growth.

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Answer Key

Answer Keys:

(Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.)

1. People who don't know much about poodles have the wrong idea about this breed. They think poodles are fancy and useless, but this is far from true. Originally, poodles were developed as a sporting breed. Poodles are used as retrievers, police dogs, and Seeing Eye dogs. Because poodles learn tricks quickly, they are used as performers in plays and circuses. Poodles are classified by three basic sizes, which are standard, miniature, and toy

2. People have been concerned about dental hygiene for thousands of years. The early Egyptians, for instance, used a "chew stick." Soft and brush-like, this utensil was about the size of a pencil and frayed at one end. Later, Chinese people plucked bristles from hogs and attached them to handles made of bamboo or bone. Europeans found hog bristles too stiff for comfort. They preferred toothbrushes made of horsehair. Because damp bristles caused infections by cutting the skin of the mouth, however, new materials were needed. In 1938, a toothbrush with gentle nylon bristles was sold. Because it dried more easily, this new toothbrush prevented bacterial growth.