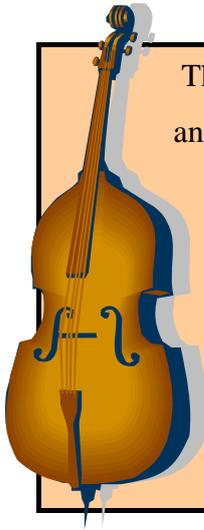


## 5.2 Reading

### Sentences in a text

Focus: using clues to work out which sentences don't belong.

1. The following is a text about a musical instrument, the double bass. Before reading the text, look at the photograph to give you an idea of what the text will be about. Read the text carefully – two sentences from a Geography textbook have been slipped into the text! Read the text to find out which sentences don't belong.

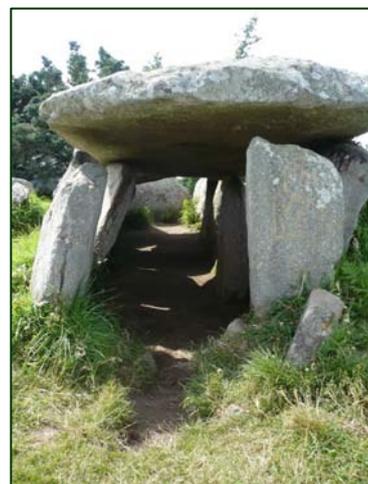


The double bass is the earliest string instrument. It has sloping shoulders and a flatter back than the other instruments in the family. Hot lava then flows out through the vent. This allows the player to stretch the fingers down the fingerboard. The strings are longer and thicker so the pitch of the notes is lower. The sound of the double bass can be heard in the strong bass line, often plucked (*pizzicato*). The lava cools and hardens. The double bass uses the bass clef and sounds an octave lower than the written score.

2. Check if other students agree with you.
3. How did you know? Discuss your answers with another student.
4. Next we have jumbled two paragraphs. One of the paragraphs is from a History textbook; it is about portal dolmens. First, look at the photographs below to help to show what this is. The other paragraph is from an English textbook, it is about fiction (*literature or stories about imaginary people or events*). Write out the text into two separate paragraphs.



Portal dolmens



### **Jumbled Paragraphs**

In the world of fiction things happen just like events in the real world. These tombs get their names from the large stones from which they were formed. Three large upright stones supported a very large capstone or dolmen. There are good characters and bad characters, they fight and argue, fall in love, rob and steal, build new communities. Many of these capstones were 40 tonnes in weight. The events are arranged into a plot. Two large upright stones acted as portals or door supports, while the third stone was at the back. The tombs were partly or fully covered by smaller stones, leaving the entrance open. This is the order of the events in the story. Bodies were cremated and placed in pots inside the chamber. Almost 200 of these portal tombs have so far been found. The events are arranged so that the reader will become interested, particularly in the people of the story, as well as what happens next.

Extracts from "Portal Dolmens", page 25, *In The Past Today*, Dermot Lucey, Gill & Macmillan, and "What is fiction?", page 5, *ExamStart*, Ordinary Level, Junior Cert English, Frances Rocks, Gill & Macmillan

#### **Paragraph 1**

In the world of fiction \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Paragraph 2**

These tombs \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. You can check your answers with a text book, or with other students or with one another.
6. Think again about how you did this exercise. What does this tell you about the skills you need when you are reading?
7. Now it's your turn. Look through your textbooks and find two different texts of similar length. Rewrite the two texts, mixing them into one text.
8. Give your text to another student to work on.