

TOPIC SENTENCES

ACTIVITY 1

TOPIC SENTENCES The topic sentence is the most important sentence of a paragraph. It states the main idea and introduces the reader to the topic.

Directions: CHOOSING TOPIC SENTENCES Choose the best topic sentence for each group of supporting sentences. Write it on the line provided.

Example: B . I usually go skiing every weekend in the winter even though it is expensive. I love the feeling of flying down a mountain. The views are beautiful from the top of a mountain and along the trails. Even the danger of falling and getting hurt can't keep me away from the slopes on a winter day.

- a) Skiing is expensive.
- b) Skiing is my favourite sport.
- c) Skiing is dangerous.

1.) . North Americans send cards for many occasions. They send cards to family and friends on birthdays and holidays. They also send thank-you cards, get well cards, graduation cards, and congratulation cards. It is very common to buy cards in stores and send them through the mail, but turning on the computer and sending cards over the Internet is also popular.

- a) Sending cards is very popular in North America.
- b) Birthday cards are the most popular kind of card.
- c) It is important to send thank-you cards.

2.) . I enjoy summer sports like water skiing and baseball. The weather is usually sunny and hot, so I can go to the beach almost every day. Gardening is my hobby and I spend many summer days working in my garden. Unfortunately, the days pass too quickly in summer.

- a) I like to garden in summer.
- b) Summer is my favourite season.
- c) Summer is too short.

3.) . First of all, we need money to repair old roads and build new roads. We also need more to pay teachers' salaries and to pay for services such as trash collection. Finally, more tax money is needed to give financial help to the poor citizens of the city. It is clear that the city will have serious problems if taxes are not raised soon.

- a) We should raise city taxes.

- ## ACTIVITY 2

Example: *Miami is the perfect place to take a vacation.* It is always sunny and warm. The beaches are gorgeous, with soft white sand and beautiful water. There are many fine restaurants in the Miami area, and most of the hotels offer terrific entertainment nightly. It's no wonder that Miami is my first choice for a vacation destination.

- 1.) _____ . He has collected stamps and coins ever since he was a child. He is very proud of his valuable collections. Paul also enjoys painting and drawing. Recently he has become interested in gardening. Out of all his hobbies, Paul's favourite one is reading. He usually reads at least one book every week. Paul keeps busy with all of his hobbies.
- 2.) _____ . I can't wait to come home from school and eat the delicious meals she has prepared. She is famous for her desserts like peach pie and chocolate soufflé. She is always experimenting with new recipes and trying different ingredients. No one in the world can cook the way my mother does.

- 3.) _____ . It never starts in cold weather. The horn and the left turn signal don't work properly. Worst of all, the radio only gets one station and the CD player is completely broken. I wish I could get a new car.
- 4.) _____ . First and most importantly, the work is very interesting. I learn new things every day and I get to travel a lot. In addition, my boss is very nice. She is always willing to help me when I have a problem. I have also made many new friends at my job. Last, but not least, the salary is fantastic.
- 5.) _____ . To start things off, my plane was six hours late. When I finally got to my hotel, I was very disappointed. It was small and dirty. On the third day, my wallet was 4 stolen, and I lost all my credit cards. It rained every day except one, and on that day I got a terrible sunburn. All in all, it wasn't a vacation to remember.

ACTIVITY 3

Generally, the main idea of a paragraph is stated in the topic sentence. The topic sentence tells the topic of the paragraph and the general idea regarding the topic that is going to be discussed. A topic sentence should not contain supporting details. **ANSWERS MAY VARY.**

Directions: Write a topic sentence for the group of sentences provided.

1. Topic sentence: _____
- Crocodiles are grayish green.
 - Crocodiles have triangular snout.
 - The fourth tooth is exposed on a crocodile when their mouth is closed.
 - Alligators like fresh water.
 - Alligators have a rounded snout.
2. Topic sentence: _____
- You need to exercise daily.
 - You need to eat variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.
 - Water is important
 - Calcium is found in a variety of foods other than milk.
3. Topic sentence: _____
- Clarion angelfish live in reef waters.
 - A large Clarion angelfish is eight inches long.

- Its thin body helps it slip in and around rocky reefs.
- They eat sponges, sea grasses, and algae.

4. Topic sentence: _____

- Butterflies lay their eggs on leaves.
- The larvae grow and turn into caterpillars.
- Then, the eggs hatch into small larvae.
- The caterpillars spin a chrysalis or cocoon.

5. Topic sentence: _____

- The judge sat with a grim look on her face.
- I wish I had that day to do over again.
- The room was thick with anticipation.
- I will never drink and drive again.

6. Topic sentence: _____

- Many people gather to watch the bull riding.
- The rides at the fair are awesome!
- Others come for the food.
- Everyone can find something they enjoy doing.

ACTIVITY 4

Directions: Read the paragraph. **Highlight** the sentence that best serves as the topic sentence.

- _____. First, the speaker should make the message brief. Second, the speaker should avoid using the same words over and over. Finally, the speaker should briefly summarize what he said.
 - Communication is necessary and essential in business.
 - For clear communication the speaker should do three things.
 - A listener will only understand one message at a time.
 - Variety of topics helps to hold the interest of the listener.
- _____. Machine shop workers must think safety at all times. They must carefully watch what they are doing. Safe operation of equipment will prevent accidents.
 - Accidents are caused; they don't just happen.

- b. Rags and fingers can get caught in tools.
 - c. Keep the floor clean.
 - d. Always wear an apron when you are working.

- 3. _____. You must stand on your feet for long periods of time. You need to learn how to stand properly so that you don't get tired. You must lift and move patients. You need to learn how to do this so that you protect your own body and the patient's too.
 - a. It might be necessary to move an injured person.
 - b. Balance your weight on both feet.
 - c. Understanding safety information will help you avoid harm or injury.
 - d. Healthcare jobs often require strenuous work.

- 4. _____. Medicine, toys, cosmetics, school supplies, and a variety of household goods are just a few of the possibilities. Some supermarkets even have travel agencies. Some might even contain banks. They are really "super."
 - a. To help you stay on a budget, make a list before you go to the supermarket.
 - b. You might be surprised at what you can buy at a supermarket today.
 - c. Some supermarkets today are so huge you can get lost in them.
 - d. Have you ever been to a supermarket in another country?

- 5. _____. She enrolled in a keyboarding class, but she still needed more experience typing. Starting next week she will type an extra hour daily. As a result, Amber will be ready to be an efficient administrative assistant!
 - a. Amber's instructor thinks she will be learning to type.
 - b. In fact, Amber knows how to use a computer.
 - c. Amber wanted to learn how to type so she could get a job as an administrative assistant.
 - d. Therefore, Amber should have no difficulty finding a job.