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| **Topic Sentences Worksheet** **|** Lower Secondary  **1st Semester | 2023-2024** Stage (6-8) | | |
| **Name:** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | |
| **Date:** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| **Subject:** **English Language: Writing skills** | |  |
| **Objectives:**   * to understand topic sentences * to identify topic sentences * to practice writing effective 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. While it is usually at the beginning of the paragraph, it also can be in the middle or end of it.**

**PART 1:**

**Directions: Choose the best topic sentence for each group of supporting sentences and circle the answer.**

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| **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. | **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) Skiing is expensive.  b) Skiing is my favorite sport.  c) Skiing is dangerous. | 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. | **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) I like to garden in summer.  b) Summer is my favorite season.  c) Summer is too short. | a) We should raise city taxes.  b) City taxes are too high.  c) City taxes pay for new roads. |

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| **4)** \_\_\_\_\_. For example, a person can have breakfast in New York, board an airplane, and have dinner in Paris. A businesswoman in London can instantly place an order with a factory in Hong Kong by sending a fax. Furthermore, a schoolboy in Tokyo can turn on a TV and watch a baseball game being played in Los Angeles. | **5)** \_\_\_\_\_. One thing you must consider is the quality of the university’s educational program. You also need to think about the school’s size and location. Finally, you must be sure to consider the university’s tuition to make sure you can afford to go to school there. |
| a) Airplanes have changed our lives.  b) Advances in technology have made the world seem smaller.  c) The fax machine was an important invention. | a) It is expensive to attend a university in the United States.  b) There are several factors to consider when you choose a university to attend.  c) You should consider getting a good education. |
| **PART 2:** | |
| **Directions: Read each question, and circle the correct answer.** | |
| **1. Which sentence would be BEST to put at the start of the paragraph below?**  Jim likes to play football. His sister plays baseball. His brother is on a basketball team. His parents like to ski in the winter.  A. Jim has a large family.  B. Jim's family enjoys sports.  C. Playing sports is good exercise. | **2. Which would be the BEST topic sentence for this paragraph?**  My school has recess every day. I like to play on the swings and jungle gym with my friends. We like to laugh and run. Recess is my favorite time of the day.  A. Recess is when I can have fun with my friends.  B. Some kids bring their toys from home for recess.  C. Parents sometimes bring their small children during recess for a visit. |
| **3. Which is the BEST topic sentence that could be put at the beginning of this paragraph?**  I play basketball every weekend. My friends and I play it at recess and after school. My mom took me to a basketball game. I got to see Michael Jordan play. That was the greatest because basketball is my favorite game.  A. Basketball is my favorite game.  B. Michael Jordan was a great basketball player.  C. Some people play both football and basketball. | **4. Which would make the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph below?**  Matt likes dogs and playing soccer. Claire likes cats and playing tennis. Matt likes to eat pizza. Claire's favorite food is spaghetti.  A. Matt and Claire like animals.  B. Pizza and spaghetti taste good.  C. Matt and Claire like different things |
| **5. Which sentence below would be the best starting sentence for the following paragraph?**  It took our bus four hours to get to Sea World. We saw whales, seals, and sharks. There were also many fish in tanks.  A. Our class took a trip.  B. One of my favorite things was the whale.  C. I ate lunch outside with my class. | **6. Which would be the BEST sentence to put at the beginning of the following paragraph?**  Georgia has a new flag. The flag has the state seal. South Carolina's flag has a tree and the moon. The flag of Wyoming has a buffalo.  A. California's flag has a bear.  B. Every state has a different flag.  C. Georgia's flag is very interesting |

**PART 3:**

**Directions: In each paragraph below, underline the topic sentence.**

1. The best trip my family ever took was to New Orleans, Louisiana. We drove there in two days. I didn’t think it would be very interesting, but I was wrong. We saw the Mississippi River, rode a horse carriage in the French Quarter, and visited a cemetery where everyone was buried above the ground. I liked the food best, especially the New Orleans doughnuts called beignets.

2. No one likes to eat with a dirty knife, fork, or spoon. It is important to completely wash all utensils before using them. Clean utensils won’t transmit germs and bacteria. They also are more pleasant to eat with.

3. Many people think poetry is old-fashioned and uninteresting. They don’t realize that every time they hear a song sung, they are hearing poetry in the form of song lyrics. Just like many written poems, many song lyrics use rhythm, rhyme, and literary imagery. It turns out that poetry isn’t old-fashioned; it’s as modern as the latest hit song!

4. Growing a garden can be fun, good exercise, and will provide fresh fruits and vegetables for the gardener. It is interesting to watch the seeds pop their heads above the soil for the first time. It is sometimes hard to believe that a little seed can become a large vine or plant in just a few weeks. Planting the seeds and pulling weeds are good exercise for anyone. Then, after watching the plant grow and produce, the gardener ends up with delicious tomatoes, beans, or other yummy produce from the garden.

5. Sometimes it is hard to fall asleep. Maybe you are not sleepy, or maybe you are thinking about what happened during the day. You can also lie awake if a big event, like a test or a party, is happening the next day. There are several things you can do to try and fall asleep. You can try counting sheep, or just counting, which will keep your mind busy with a repetitious activity. Sometimes listening to soft music or gentle sounds, like rain, helps. You can even try telling yourself a story, which may distract your mind enough that you will be asleep in no time.

**PART 4: Read the paragraphs. Write the number of the topic sentence next to the correct paragraph.**

**1. I lived in a small town when I was a child.**

**2. When I have my own children, I want to move to a small town.**

**3. The town I live in is very small.**

**4. There are two main advantages of living in a small town.**

**Paragraph A: Topic sentence \_\_\_\_**

First, you know everyone and everyone knows you. This helps you to feel safe, and it is friendlier. Secondly, it is quiet and there are fewer cars. This means there is less pollution than in a big town or city.

**Paragraph B: Topic sentence \_\_\_\_**

It was a very nice place to live then. Now it is much bigger than before. More people live there and some big businesses opened offices there. My parents still live there but they say it was better in the past.

**Paragraph C: Topic sentence \_\_\_\_**

I don’t want my children to live in a big city because a big city is not as friendly or as safe as a village. I want to move to the village where my grandparents live. The children can play in the street there and everyone knows each other.

**Paragraph D: Topic sentence \_\_\_\_**

There are only a few food shops and one school here. Most people go to the big city to go shopping for clothes and gifts. There is a doctor’s but there isn’t a hospital. Again, you need to go to the city if you need the hospital. However, our town is very nice and it has a beautiful park.

**PART 5: Read the paragraph. Write the letter of the correct topic sentence.**

**Topic sentences:**

**A: Japan is a very beautiful country.**

**B: Japan, for example, makes computers.**

**C: Japan is a very important country.**

**D: Japan makes cars.**

**Paragraph:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ It produces many cars, such as Toyotas and Nissans, which it sells all over the world. It also produces electrical goods such as televisions and DVDs. Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is one of the biggest and most modern cities in the world.

**What is wrong with *the other* topic sentences? Match them to the problems.**

**Problems:** **Topic sentence:**

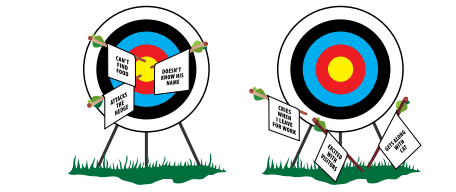
It is an example. \_\_\_\_\_\_

It is a smaller idea, not the main idea. \_\_\_\_\_\_

It is about something different from the other sentences. \_\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 6: Read the two topic sentences. Write the other sentences in order below the correct topic sentences.**

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| 1. **Computers are very useful for learning English.**  **2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. **I need to buy a new computer.**  **2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| I am going to give my old computer to my younger sister.  You can do your homework on them.  You can use them in different ways. | You can also use online dictionaries and play games in English.  I need a faster one for my college work.  My computer is very slow. |

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One common mistake in writing is going off point. Think of your point as the bull’s-eye in a target. Every sentence and detail in a paper should be relevant, meaning that it hits the bull’s-eye—it supports your point. Otherwise, your paper will not be convincing. Instead of hitting the target and proving your point, your “support” will be irrelevant. In other words, it will miss the point completely.

Let’s say you decide your point is going to be that your aunt is a generous person. If you provide details about her sense of humor or odd habits, you are going off point. Or your point could be that your apartment is not a good place to live. If you provide details about the convenient location of the apartment, you’re missing the target.

**Look at the following outline of a paragraph. The point is followed by six facts, only three of which are on target in supporting the point. The other facts are irrelevant to the point. See if you can check the three relevant statements of support—the ones that hit the bull’s-eye.**

**Point: My dog Otis is not very bright.**

\_\_\_ 1. He’s five years old and doesn’t respond to his name yet.

\_\_\_ 2. He cries when I leave for work every day.

\_\_\_ 3. He always gets excited when visitors arrive.

\_\_\_ 4. He often attacks the backyard hedge as if it’s a hostile animal.

\_\_\_ 5. He gets along very well with my neighbor’s cat.

\_\_\_ 6. I often have to put food in front of him because he can’t find it by himself.