**EXERCISES ON PARAGRAPH WRITING**

**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 It also informs the reader of the subject that will be discussed in the paragraph, asserts the writer’s point of view or attitude, intrigues the reader to continue reading, and creates a sense of action

**CHOOSING TOPIC SENTENCES**

**Choose the best topic sentence for each group of supporting sentences. Write it on the line provided.**

 1): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 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

2.)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 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.

3.)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . 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

4.)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . 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.

b) City taxes are too high.

C) City taxes pay for new roads.

5.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . For example, a person can have breakfast in New York, board an airplane, and have dinner in Paris. A business woman 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.

a) Airplanes have changed our lives.

b) Advances in technology have made the world seem smaller.

c) The fax machine was an important invention.

6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . 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 ’situation to make sure you can afford to go to school there.

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.

**Write a topic sentence for each paragraph. Make sure your topic sentence expresses the main idea of the paragraph.**

 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 hall 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 4stolen, and I lost all my credit cards. It rained very day except one, and on that day I got a terrible sunburn. All in all, it wasn’t a vacation to remember

**3. RECOGNIZING SUPPORTING SENTENCES**

1.) Use of the internet has grown very quickly. In 1983, there were 562 computers connected to the Internet. By the turn of the century, there were 72.3 million computers in 247 countries on-line. Experts say that the Internet is now growing at a rate of approximately 40 percent a year. As time goes on, the Internet is becoming more and more popular.

2. There are many reasons I hate my apartment. The plumbing doesn’t work properly and the landlord refuses to fix it. I also have noisy neighbours who keep me up all night. Furthermore, there are so many bugs in my apartment that I could start an insect collection. I really want to move.

3.) Vegetables and fruits are an important part of a healthy diet. fruits and vegetables are packed with the vitamins and minerals you need to keep your body functioning smoothly. In addition, they give you the carbohydrates you need for energy. Fruits and vegetables have lots of fiber to help your digestive system work properly. Finally, many scientists believe that the nutrients in fruits and vegetables

**RECOGNIZING IRRELEVANT SENTENCES**

There is one irrelevant sentence in each paragraph that follows. Find that sentence and cross it out.

1.)There are several ways people can conserve natural resources. One way is to turn lights off and appliances when they are not in use. Another way is to drive cars less. My favourite kind of car is convertible. People can also insulate their houses better. Finally, by reusing things like bottles and plastic bags, people can reduce the amount of waste. By practicing these simple guidelines, we can save our natural resources.

2.) Cats make wonderful house pets. They are very loving and friendly. Cats are also clean. They don’t eat much, so they are not expensive. Unfortunately, some people are allergic to their hair. Cats look beautiful and they’re fun to have in your home.

3.)The capital city of a country is usually a very important city. The government offices are located in the capital city and political leaders usually live there nearby. There are many different types of governments in the world. The capital may also be the centre of culture. There are often museums, libraries, and universities in the capital. Finally, the capital city can serve as a centre of trade, industry and commerce, so it is often the financial centre of the country

**4) CONCLUDING SENTENCES**

Some paragraphs end with a concluding sentence. **This sentence states the main idea of the paragraph again using different words. It summarizes the main points of the paragraph, or makes a final comment on the topic. Concluding sentences are not always necessary. In fact, short paragraphs that are part of longer pieces of writing often do not have concluding sentences.**

**5. WRITING CONCLUDING SENTENCES**

**Write a concluding sentence for each paragraph.**

1.) There are many reasons why I like wearing a uniform to school. First of all, it saves time. I don’t have to spend time picking out my clothes every morning. Wearing a uniform also saves money. It’s cheaper to purchase a new uniform than to go out and buy lots of school clothes. In addition, I don’t have the pressure of keeping up with the latest styles. Most importantly, wearing a school uniform gives me a sense that I belong. I really think that it adds to the feeling of school spirit and community. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

7.) There are many reasons why I am against wearing a school uniform. For one thing, I don’t like they style of the uniform. The navy blazer and plaid skirt are too conservative for me. Secondly, the uniform isn’t comfortable. I prefer to wear baggy pants and a sweater instead of a skirt and a jacket. Finally, I want the freedom to express my individuality through my style of dressing. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

3.) Credit cards have a lot of advantages. First of all, credit cards are convenient because you don’t have to carry a lot of cash around. You can buy the product sand services you need even if you do not have cash in your pocket. In addition, credit cards are very helpful in emergencies. Finally, you can become a better money manager as you learn to use credit cards responsibly. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

 What is a Paragraph?

A paragraph is a group of sentences that convey an idea. Each sentence works together as part of a unit to create an overall thought or impression. A paragraph is the smallest unit or cluster of sentences in which one idea can be developed adequately. Paragraphs can stand alone or function as part of an essay, but each paragraph covers only one main idea. The most important sentence in your paragraph is the topic sentence, which clearly states the subject of the whole paragraph. The topic sentence is usually the first sentence of the paragraph because it gives an overview of the sentences to follow. The supporting sentences after the topic sentence help to develop the main idea. These sentences give specific details related to the topic sentence. A final or concluding sentence often restates or summarizes the main idea of the topic sentence.

A good paragraph has:

* A topic sentence stating the main point of the paragraph,
* supporting sentences with details and specific examples as proof of your point,
* logical, coherent thoughts that are developed in order from one sentence to the
* next, and a concluding idea that wraps up the point of the paragraph

Write a topic sentences, supporting sentences and concluding sentences for the following topics

**1)Fast food**

**Advantages— easily available, variety, something for every one, easy to carry.**

**Disadvantages-- no nutritional value, increases weight , excess use of salts, fats, refined material—lack of dietary fibre lead to upset stomach, bad cooking, stale ingredients--- exposed to flies and insects.**

**2) TV VIEWING**

**Disadvantages—wastes time-- spoils culture— spoils habit(playing. Eating, exercise, socializing, makes a person lazy.**

**Advantages--- cheapest form of entertainment, creases knowledge, latest news easily available,**

**Long reach –benefits benefits rural AREAS, good and effective medium for marketing and social messages, cheap medium of educations**

3) **Good health**----- most precious possession----- healthy minds need healthy body----essentials of

good health -- good food, fresh air, clean water, exercise, rest---- reasons for health problems

fatty, fast, oily food, no smoking or drinking, irregular habits, lack of exercise, stress

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**THE KEY:1 .CHOOSING TOPIC SENTENCES: 1a, 2b, 3a, 4 b 5 b.2.WRITING A TOPIC SENTENCE:Suggested answers:**

 1.)

**Paul has many hobbies.**

 (Instead of ‘many’ you can use: a lot of, several)2.)

**My mother is great cook.**

 (Instead of ‘great’ you can use similar adjectives: very good, fantastic), also: My mother’s cooking is very good.3.)

**I have (got) problems with my car.**

Also: I have difficulties / troubles with my car.4.)

**I have (got) a great job.**

 (Also: I have (got) a fantastic / perfect / a very good job.5.)

**My holidays / vacations were a disaster**

. (Also: My vacations / holidays were disastrous / terrible.)

6) The Japanese automobile industry uses robots in many stages of its production process. In fact, one large Japanese auto factory uses robots in all of its production stages. Some Japanese universities are developing medical robots to detect certain kinds of cancer. Another automobile factory in Japan uses them to paint cars as they come off the assembly line. Furthermore, most Japanese factories use robots to weld the parts of the finished car together.

5.)The packaging of many products is very wasteful. Often the packaging is twice as big as the product. Packaging is used to protect things that are breakable. Many food items, for example, have several layers of extra packaging. Most of these extra layers could be eliminated.

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