

Topic Sentences - Exercise Writing I

You may complete these exercises working either alone or in a pair. Be sure to check your answers when you have finished each exercise.

Exercise 1

The following groups of sentences can be rearranged to form paragraphs. Make a note of the order in which they should be placed (e.g. b., d., c., a., e.) and put a ring around the letter that corresponds to what you think is the topic sentence.

Paragraph 1

1. Next, add antifreeze to your windshield washer fluid; otherwise, the fluid will freeze and possibly break the container.
2. First, put on snow tires if you plan to drive on snowy, icy roads very often.
3. Driving in winter, especially on snowy, icy roads, can be less troublesome if you take a few simple precautions.
4. Finally, it is also a good idea to carry tire chains, a can of spray to unfreeze door locks, and a windshield scraper in your car when driving in winter weather.
5. Second, check the amount of antifreeze in your radiator and add more if necessary.

Paragraph 2

1. A breakthrough in one of these areas will hopefully provide a means of relieving both the overstretched oil market and the environment.
2. Researchers in the automobile industry are experimenting with different types of engines and fuels as alternatives to the conventional gasoline engines.
3. One new type of engine, which burns diesel oil instead of gasoline, has been available for several years.
4. Finally, several automobile manufactureres are experimenting with methanol, which is a mixture of gasoline and methyl alcohol, as an automobile fuel.
5. A further type is the gas turbine engine, which can use fuels made from gasoline, diesel oil, kerosene and other petroleum distillates.
6. The increasing depletion of oil reserves, along with environmental concerns, have prompted some radical developments in car design over the past few years

Paragraph 3

1. Later on, people began to write on pieces of leather, which were rolled into scrolls.
2. In the earliest times, people carved or painted messages on rocks.
3. In the Middle Ages, heavy paper called parchment was used for writing and books were laboriously copied by hand.
4. With the invention of the printing press in the middle of the fifteenth century, the modern printing industry was born.
5. Some form of written communication has been used throughout the centuries.

Exercise 2

Now write two or three topic sentences for each of the following topics. You should choose two or three different controlling ideas for the same topic.

Example:

Topic: Television's effects on children

Topic sentences: 1. Television is harmful to children because it teaches them violence as a way of solving problems.

2. Television can improve a child's general knowledge.

1. Smoking cigarettes
2. Foreign travel
3. Space exploration
4. Rock music or rock musicians
5. Studying a foreign language