

# ENGLISH PLUS

WITH  
ANSWER  
KEY

## PRACTICE WORKSHEETS



## WRITING

## THE TOPIC SENTENCE

# Writing Paragraphs | The Topic Sentence

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1. **Choose the best topic sentence.**

- (A) Winter is a good season.
- (B) Winter weather is cold, and it snows.
- (C) The best season for kids is winter.

2. **Choose the best topic sentence.**

- (A) Monolingual dictionaries have only one language, but bilingual dictionaries have two languages.
- (B) Many language students prefer bilingual dictionaries to monolingual dictionaries.
- (C) Dictionaries that have two languages, such as French and English, are called bilingual dictionaries.

3. **Choose the best topic sentence.**

- (A) French perfumes are expensive for a number of reasons.
- (B) My mother's perfume smells flowery.
- (C) You can purchase perfumes in expensive blue crystal bottles.

4. **Choose the best topic sentence.**

- (A) An American Education has 540 pages.
- (B) A woman graduates in An American Education.
- (C) An American Education is an excellent historical novel.

5. **Choose the best topic sentence.**

- (A) There are many people in Los Angeles.
- (B) People from many different cultures live in Los Angeles.
- (C) Los Angeles is a big city in California.

6. **Choose the best topic sentence.**

- (A) Soccer is popular for many reasons.
- (B) You need a leather ball to play soccer.
- (C) Soccer is a nice game.

7. **Underline the controlling idea in each of the following topic sentences, and explain what information you expect to find in the paragraph.**

A. The SAT Reasoning Test contains three distinct sections that deal with three important skills.

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B. The shocking crash of a 747 jumbo jet off the coast of New York baffled investigators.

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C. Crossword puzzles are not only educational and fun but also addictive.

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- D. Recent research has confirmed that eating dark green, leafy vegetables, such as broccoli and cabbage, may reduce the risk of some kind of cancer.

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- E. Although buying a house may seem appealing, renting an apartment has many advantages.

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**8. Write a good topic sentence for the paragraphs below. (Answers will vary, but a sample good topic sentence will be provided in the answer key as a guide.)**

- A. Some people choose to learn how to play a musical instrument because they want to have fun. They want to play it with their friends or maybe in a band. Another reason people play an instrument is that it is their hobby. They learned how to play it a long time ago, and now it is a way to occupy their time. Other people learn to play an instrument because it is part of their culture. Certain instruments are popular in one culture, such as the guitar in Spain or the oud in the Middle East. In some cases, however, people learn how to play an instrument because they think it will make them smarter. A great deal of research suggests that studying music can improve a person's brain function and intelligence. In sum, there is not just one main reason that people play a musical instrument.

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- B. First, your body will look better. Exercise is perfect for staying trim and healthy looking, and it does not have to take a long time. Second, you will actually have more energy. A person who exercises will have fewer problems walking upstairs or climbing hills. In addition, your heart will be healthier. A good, strong heart is necessary for a long, healthy life. Finally, exercise reduces stress and keeps your mind in shape. Therefore, if you want to improve your overall health, you should exercise three or four times each week to accomplish this goal.
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- C. One obvious difference is size. Most modern reptiles are small. Dinosaurs were much, much larger than any reptile that we have on earth today. Second, the legs of most reptiles today are on the sides of their body. However, dinosaurs' legs were on the bottom of their body. In this way, dinosaurs could stand up on their back legs. Third, today's reptiles use the environment to control their body temperature. In contrast, dinosaurs controlled their own body temperature. They did not depend on their surroundings. While reptiles and dinosaurs may seem very similar, they are actually quite different.
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- D. It is one of the easiest foods to eat. You can eat it with your fingers, and it does not have to be served piping hot like some foods do. In addition, with only 20 calories per cup and almost no fat, it is both a filling and a heart-friendly snack. Furthermore, it can be an important source of natural fiber, a substance that is important in limiting certain types of cancer. Based on this information, can anyone be surprised that sales of popcorn are soaring in many countries?
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- E. In this method, learners form their own sound association between the foreign language word they are trying to learn and any word in their native language. In the second stage, learners form an image link between the target word and the native language word. For example, a Japanese learner of English might look at the English word hatchet and connect it to the Japanese word hachi, which means "eight." In this case, the learner might remember that he can use a hatchet eight times to cut down a tree. For many language students, this particular method is effective in learning new vocabulary in a foreign language.
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# Writing Paragraphs | The Topic Sentence

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1. (A) (B) (C)

2. (A) (B) (C)

3. (A) (B) (C)

4. (A) (B) (C)

5. (A) (B) (C)

6. (A) (B) (C)

Answer Sheet

7. A.

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B.

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C.

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D.

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E.

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8.

A.

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B.

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C.

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D.

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E.

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Answer Sheet

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- B Many language students prefer bilingual dictionaries to monolingual dictionaries.
- C Dictionaries that have two languages, such as French and English, are called bilingual dictionaries.

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**6. Choose the best topic sentence.**

- A Soccer is popular for many reasons.
- B You need a leather ball to play soccer.
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**7. Underline the controlling idea in each of the following topic sentences, and explain what information you expect to find in the paragraph.**

- A. The SAT Reasoning Test contains three distinct sections that deal with three important skills.

The SAT Reasoning Test contains three distinct sections that deal with three important skills.

Reader's expectation: Readers expect to have information about the three important skills related to the three sections of the SAT Reasoning Test.

- B. The shocking crash of a 747 jumbo jet off the coast of New York baffled investigators.

The shocking crash of a 747 jumbo jet off the coast of New York baffled investigators.

Reader's expectation: Readers expect to learn about the reasons why the crash baffled investigators.

- C. Crossword puzzles are not only educational and fun but also addictive.

Crossword puzzles are not only educational and fun but also addictive.

Reader's expectation: Readers expect to learn how and why crossword puzzles are addictive.

- D. Recent research has confirmed that eating dark green, leafy vegetables, such as broccoli and cabbage, may reduce the risk of some kind of cancer.

Recent research has confirmed that eating dark green, leafy vegetables, such as broccoli and cabbage, may reduce the risk of some kind of cancer.

**Reader's expectation:** Readers expect to learn information about the qualities of dark green vegetables that give them this potential of reducing the risk of cancer.

- E. Although buying a house may seem appealing, renting an apartment has many advantages.

Although buying a house may seem appealing, renting an apartment has many advantages.

**Reader's expectation:** Readers expect to learn about the advantages of renting an apartment.

**8. Write a good topic sentence for the paragraphs below. (Answers will vary, but a sample good topic sentence will be provided in the answer key as a guide.)**

- A. Some people choose to learn how to play a musical instrument because they want to have fun. They want to play it with their friends or maybe in a band. Another reason people play an instrument is that it is their hobby. They learned how to play it a long time ago, and now it is a way to occupy their time. Other people learn to play an instrument because it is part of their culture. Certain instruments are popular in one culture, such as the guitar in Spain or the oud in the Middle East. In some cases, however, people learn how to play an instrument because they think it will make them smarter. A great deal of research suggests that studying music can improve a person's brain function and intelligence. In sum, there is not just one main reason that people play a musical instrument.

**(Sample Answer) People learn how play a musical instrument for all sorts of reasons.**

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- B. First, your body will look better. Exercise is perfect for staying trim and healthy looking, and it does not have to take a long time. Second, you will actually have more energy. A person who exercises will have fewer problems walking upstairs or climbing hills. In addition, your heart will be healthier. A good, strong heart is necessary for a long, healthy life. Finally, exercise reduces stress and keeps your mind in shape. Therefore, if you want to improve your overall health, you should exercise three or four times each week to accomplish this goal.

**(Sample Answer) Doing exercise can benefit you in many ways you might not have thought of before.**

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- C. One obvious difference is size. Most modern reptiles are small. Dinosaurs were much, much larger than any reptile that we have on earth today. Second, the legs of most reptiles today are on the sides of their body. However, dinosaurs' legs were on the bottom of their body. In this way, dinosaurs could stand up on their back legs. Third, today's reptiles use the environment to control their body temperature. In contrast, dinosaurs controlled their own body temperature. They did not depend on their surroundings. While reptiles and dinosaurs may seem very similar, they are actually quite different.

**(Sample Answer) Although reptiles look like they are the living descendants of dinosaurs, there are many differences between them.**

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- D. It is one of the easiest foods to eat. You can eat it with your fingers, and it does not have to be served piping hot like some foods do. In addition, with only 20 calories per cup and almost no fat, it is both a filling and a heart-friendly snack. Furthermore, it can be an important source of natural fiber, a substance that is important in limiting certain types of cancer. Based on this information, can anyone be surprised that sales of popcorn are soaring in many countries?

**(Sample Answer) Popcorn is one of the most popular snacks in the world for many reasons.**

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- E. In this method, learners form their own sound association between the foreign language word they are trying to learn and any word in their native language. In the second stage, learners form an image link between the target word and the native language word. For example, a Japanese learner of English might look at the English word hatchet and connect it to the Japanese word hachi, which means "eight." In this case, the learner might remember that he can use a hatchet eight times to cut down a tree. For many language students, this particular method is effective in learning new vocabulary in a foreign language.

**(Sample Answer) Language learners can use this method to learn new words more effectively.**

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# Writing Paragraphs | The Topic Sentence

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1.  A  B  C
2.  A  B  C
3.  A  B  C
4.  A  B  C
5.  A  B  C
6.  A  B  C

Answer Sheet

7. A. The SAT Reasoning Test contains three distinct sections that deal with three important skills.

**Reader's expectation:** Readers expect to have information about the three important skills related to the three sections of the SAT Reasoning Test.

B. The shocking crash of a 747 jumbo jet off the coast of New York baffled investigators.

**Reader's expectation:** Readers expect to learn about the reasons why the crash baffled investigators.

C. Crossword puzzles are not only educational and fun but also addictive.

**Reader's expectation:** Readers expect to learn how and why crossword puzzles are addictive.

D. Recent research has confirmed that eating dark green, leafy vegetables, such as broccoli and cabbage, may reduce the risk of some kind of cancer.

**Reader's expectation:** Readers expect to learn information about the qualities of dark green vegetables that give them this potential of reducing the risk of cancer.

E. Although buying a house may seem appealing, renting an apartment has many advantages.

**Reader's expectation:** Readers expect to learn about the advantages of renting an apartment.

8. A. (Sample Answer) People learn how play a musical instrument for all sorts of reasons.

B. (Sample Answer) Doing exercise can benefit you in many ways you might not have thought of before.

C. (Sample Answer) Although reptiles look like they are the living descendants of dinosaurs, there are many differences between them.

D. (Sample Answer) Popcorn is one of the most popular snacks in the world for many reasons.

E. (Sample Answer) Language learners can use this method to learn new words more

**effectively.**

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