

Writing in Action - Drills for Skills

Topic Sentences - Primary 5-6

Introduction to Topic Sentences

The earlier your child learns how to use topic sentences the better his or her results will be for organisation and structure in writing.

What is a topic sentence?

A topic sentence contains the MAIN IDEA of the paragraph.

Why are topic sentences so important?

They help the reader to understand your writing and know what points you are making. If you took away all the other parts and just left the topic sentences, the reader could still understand.

Topic sentences are essential for all writing and exams, whether in primary school, secondary school or university.

They are essential to writing and will lead to high marks.

How does a topic sentence work?

A topic sentence is like a summary of all the information in the paragraph. It should state the point SIMPLY. The sentences following the topic sentence just provide more details/examples/elaboration. Each point should lead on to the next one. The ending sentence should relate back to the topic sentence.

Look at this example of a clear paragraph:

People should make use of public transport to benefit their home and themselves. Firstly, it would reduce pollution and traffic jams. The reason for this is that there are too many private cars on the road, giving off smoke and blocking the roads. By taking a bus or the MTR, people can improve the air quality and also reduce the amount of traffic. Another reason is the cost is much lower. It costs a lot to fill a car's gas tank. Buses, ferries and MTR tickets are inexpensive. Using public transport would not only help improve our environment but also save time and money.

Topic sentence > Main Idea

Supporting Points

Ending sentence

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Exercise 3 - Suggestive Articles

The following paragraphs are missing the topic sentences. Write them.

You can read more English books to begin with. By doing so, you will improve your vocabulary. You should try to choose stories that you are interested in. Also, you can watch English movies and DVDs. Lastly, you could ask your parents to find you an English tutor who can help you to improve your speaking and writing skills. I think these things will help you do better in your next English test.

One way to stay safe on the Internet is to be careful about talking to strangers. You should never give out personal information to people you don't know. If you are allowed to use sites like Facebook, make sure that your parents know who you are talking to. A good idea is to have a shared family page so that you can talk to friends and family in a safe environment. Although the Internet can be useful and fun, it is very important to stay safe.

For example, you can join sports or writing clubs with other kids. These clubs will take up so much time that boredom won't have a chance to set in. Another idea is to learn arts and craft. Spend hours making things to decorate your house and enjoy looking at them. Finally, you can read books and watch movies. As you can see, holidays don't have to be boring at all if you can make your own fun!

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Exercise 3 - Suggestive Articles

The following paragraphs are missing the topic sentences. Write them.

There are many different ways to improve your English results. You can read more English books to begin with. By doing so, you will improve your vocabulary. You should try to choose stories that you are interested in. Also, you can watch English movies and DVDs. Lastly, you could ask your parents to find you an English tutor who can help you to improve your speaking and writing skills. I think these things will help you do better in your next English test.

It is very important to be aware of Internet safety. One way to stay safe on the Internet is to be careful about talking to strangers. You should never give out personal information to people you don't know. If you are allowed to use sites like Facebook, make sure that your parents know who you are talking to. A good idea is to have a shared family page so that you can talk to friends and family in a safe environment. Although the Internet can be useful and fun, it is very important to stay safe.

There are many ways to prevent being bored in the holidays. For example, you can join sports or writing clubs with other kids. These clubs will take up so much time that boredom won't have a chance to set in. Another idea is to learn arts and craft. Spend hours making things to decorate your house and enjoy looking at them. Finally, you can read books and watch movies. As you can see, holidays don't have to be boring at all if you can make your own fun!