

Paragraphs and Topic Sentences

A **paragraph** is a group of sentences that expresses a common idea. It is made up of a topic sentence and body sentences.

A **topic sentence** introduces the main idea. Usually, it is the first sentence in a paragraph. It tells us what to expect in the rest of the paragraph.



A. For each paragraph, choose the correct topic sentence. Circle the letters.

1. I play basketball with my classmates after school. Although I am not very tall, I am quite good at shooting. I often score the most points on my team. My favourite basketball player is LeBron James. I hope that someday I can play as well as he.

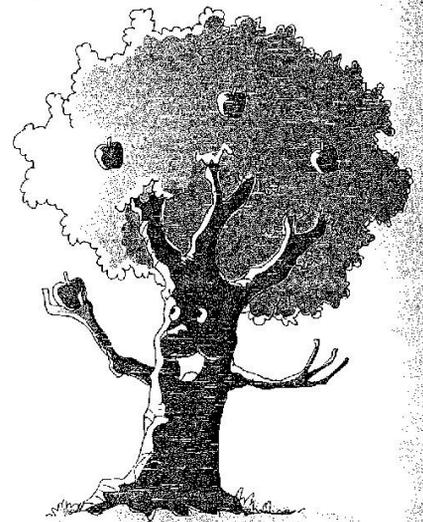
A. I like playing basketball.

B. I like LeBron James.

2. Leaves provide shade for people. They absorb carbon dioxide and give out oxygen too. The trunk is a source for making furniture. Trees also provide materials for making paper. Some trees provide us with fruit, such as apples, cherries, and pears.

A. Trees give us fruit.

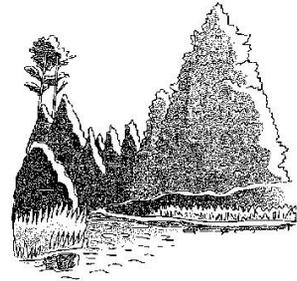
B. Trees are useful to humans.



B. Write a topic sentence for each of the following paragraphs.

1. **Topic sentence:**

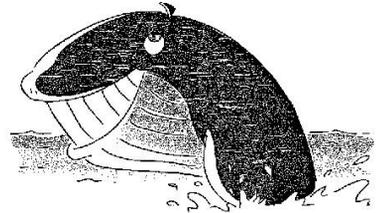
[Empty rounded rectangular box for writing a topic sentence]



It has a total area of 7725 square kilometres. There are over 1500 lakes within Algonquin Park. It has thousands of species of plants and animals. You can see both deciduous and coniferous trees there.

2. **Topic sentence:**

[Empty rounded rectangular box for writing a topic sentence]



Blue whales grow to be about 80 feet long on average, weighing about 109 000 kilograms. The females are larger than males. The largest of the blue whales has a heart that weighs about 450 kilograms.

3. **Topic sentence:**

[Empty rounded rectangular box for writing a topic sentence]



We use the cellular phone to talk to our family and friends. We can save their numbers on the phone instead of in a telephone book. We can also play games on it while we are on the go.

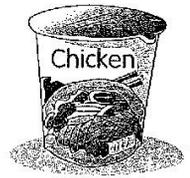
Body Sentences

Body sentences explain the main idea stated in the topic sentence. They also add details to it. The sentences should be arranged in a logical order. Often, they will appear in the order that events happen.



C. In each group of sentences below, write numbers to show how the sentences should be arranged to make a coherent paragraph. Use "1" for the topic sentence.

1. ____ Cup noodles are easy to cook.
- ____ The name "cup noodles" speaks for itself.
- ____ All you need to do is to pour boiling water into the cup and the noodles are ready to serve in a few minutes.



2. ____ I asked my brother to teach me how to skate.
- ____ After many stumbles and falls, I can finally skate.
- ____ I received a pair of roller skates as my birthday present.



3. ____ She has been collecting bookmarks since she was six.
- ____ My sister likes collecting bookmarks.
- ____ She now has over two hundred bookmarks.



D. Write a short paragraph for each topic. The topic sentence has been given to you.

1. Have you wondered why we have to put plastic containers, aluminum cans, and newspapers in the recycle bin?



2. Eating too much junk food is not good for our health.

3. Last Sunday, we went apple picking on a nearby farm.

A. Read the story. Put a vertical line between the subject and the predicate of each underlined clause or sentence.

When they arrive at the garden, Flutter, Buzzer, and Hop are surprised to see that Scotch has eaten all of the vegetables. Hop is very disappointed because he did not get to enjoy any of them. He is also still quite hungry.

"Sorry, Hop," Scotch says, "but there really were only a few leaves left. Otherwise, I would have saved you some." Scotch is lying in the shade, picking his teeth. "Well, I won the race. That was my prize."

"Yes, I suppose you did win but I didn't think that you would eat everything," says Hop. Although Hop wanted some vegetables, he knows there are other things to eat in the forest. As he turns to his friends, ready to head back into the forest, he learns that they have other ideas.

"Hop, that is not the only vegetable garden around," says Buzzer. "In fact, I think I've heard of one that is even better than this one!"

