

# 22

## Paragraph Unity

- Each sentence in a paragraph should support the topic sentence. This is called **paragraph unity**. Any sentence that doesn't help develop the topic sentence doesn't belong in the paragraph.

EXAMPLE: Maple trees grow in the southern part of Quebec. They produce more maple syrup than trees in any other area in North America.

Everyone knows that maple syrup tastes really good. Many Canadians enjoy attending the annual Maple Festival each March when the syrup is collected.

← This sentence doesn't support the topic sentence. It should be removed.

### Underline the sentence or sentences in each paragraph that do not belong.

1. The Chinese calendar, based on a twelve-year cycle, is the oldest continuously used calendar. Each year in the cycle is named for an animal: sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, pig, rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse. It is said that the animal's characteristics belong to a person born that year as well as to the year itself. The Chinese don't usually celebrate their birthdays the same way that people in western cultures do.
2. Hu-lan walked down the peaceful country road. She listened to the soft breeze rustle through the leaves overhead and thought about how different it was from the noisy city streets of home. Hu-lan was named after her great-grandmother. Her father was an engineer. Hu-lan closed her eyes and felt the sun's warmth on her face. She knew it was wise to vacation in the country. "I'll go home truly relaxed," she thought to herself.
3. For very young children, play is the chief method of learning. Games like "peek-a-boo" teach babies that parents will come back even when they go away. Sometimes parents of young children talk with other parents who have children the same age as their own. Puzzles, blocks, and balls teach hand-eye coordination. They also help children use large and small muscles.

**ON YOUR OWN. . . Write a paragraph about your favorite book or TV show. Write a topic sentence and three or four other sentences that support the topic.** 3 supporting

\* details with elaboration.

On the back