

- A **topic sentence** states the **main idea** or **topic** of a paragraph. It tells the reader what the paragraph is about. Other sentences in the paragraph tell more about the topic and support the main idea. They give specific information about the topic.
- A **topic sentence** is often the first sentence in the paragraph. But a topic sentence can be at the beginning, middle, or end of the paragraph.

EXAMPLES: Be prepared before you buy a used car.
 Know how much the car is worth and how much you are able to pay. Make a list of questions you want to ask about the car. Inspect the car yourself, or have a trusted mechanic do it for you. Finally, if possible, talk with the person who actually owned the car.

"Oh no," she said aloud as she drove alone down the narrow, moonlit street. "I knew I should've taken that first exit off the freeway," she thought to herself. But it was too late now. She had forgotten to get directions to the restaurant from Manuel. Alicia was lost, and she was going to be late for her own birthday party.

A In each pair of sentences, one sentence is a topic sentence, and the other sentence tells something about the topic. Write T by the topic sentence.

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| 1. <u>T</u> Jack never has liked winter.
_____ Most of all he hates to wear a hat or gloves. | 5. _____ Baseball card collectors learn a lot about the history of baseball.
_____ Collecting baseball cards is entertaining as well as educational. |
| 2. _____ Smoking increases the risk of lung cancer.
_____ Smoking contributes to many health problems. | 6. _____ George Washington Carver taught farmers how to rotate their crops.
_____ Farmers owe a lot to George Washington Carver. |
| 3. _____ Computers are used in offices, homes, and stores.
_____ Computers are important in modern life. | 7. _____ My favorite place to visit in Mexico is Guadalajara.
_____ There are many wonderful restaurants in Guadalajara, Mexico. |
| 4. _____ A visit to a petting zoo is a good activity for children.
_____ Children can touch and hold the animals. | 8. _____ One way to find out about a child care center is to talk with parents.
_____ How can you pick a good child care center? |

B**Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph.**

1. He was, without question, the most adorable kitten Katya had ever seen. His dark, green eyes were beautiful against his snow white coat and black paws. His large ears stood straight up, making his head look smaller than it really was. "I'm taking him home," she announced to the animal shelter volunteer.
2. The Arctic's climate is determined by the amount of heat and light received from the sun. Because of the Earth's slant, Arctic regions don't get direct sunlight during certain parts of the year. The North Pole gets no direct sunlight for six consecutive months each year. In the summer, even though the Arctic gets long hours of sunlight, the slant of the Earth doesn't allow as much heat to hit the region.
3. First, Jamal heard a beeping noise that sounded like his clothes dryer was off balance. Next, he saw the monitor flicker. The beeps turned into high-pitched whining noises. White lines shot across the screen and then the monitor turned completely black. Jamal's computer had just shut itself off for no apparent reason.
4. Its name means "king of the tyrant lizards." It stood up to 18 feet high and was between 40 and 50 feet long. It had two strong hind legs and two tiny arms. Tyrannosaurus Rex was the largest of all meat-eating dinosaurs. Some scientists think that it hunted live animals, but others think it lived on animals that had already been killed by other animals.
5. Mrs. Anaya's friends have an odd assortment of pets. Rosa has a boa constrictor that slithers freely around her house. Sara and Tony have a parrot that sings TV show theme songs. Mutan has a fish that swims sideways. Even Misha has a strange pet: a rabbit with one pink eye and one gray eye!