**TOPIC SENTENCE**

**Practice 1 – Recognizing Topic Sentences**

*Step 1:* Decide which of the following sentences is the topic sentence of the paragraph

Write TS on the line next to that sentence.

*Step 2:* Decide the order of the supporting sentences and number them 1, 2, 3 and so on.

**Paragraph 1**

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| \_\_\_\_\_ a. | It enables customers to do several banking transactions twenty-four hours a day. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ b. | In addition, a customer can transfer funds between accounts or get a cash advance on a credit card. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ c. | An automated teller machine (ATM) is a convenient miniature bank. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ d. | For example, a customer can use an ATM to deposit money and withdraw a limited amount of cash. |

**Paragraph 2**

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| --- | --- |
| \_\_\_\_\_ a. | After an attack by a great white, 462 stitches were required to sew up an Australian scuba diver. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ b. | With their razor-sharp teeth and strong jaws, great white sharks are very dangerous. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ c. | Nevertheless, one did just that near a public beach in Australia in 1985. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ d. | Even when they attack humans, however, great whites do not usually eat them. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ e. | It bit in half and totally devoured a young female swimmer. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ f. | Great whites do not usually attack humans, but when they do, they always cause serious injury and even death. |

**Paragraph 3**

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| --- | --- |
| \_\_\_\_\_ a. | Another important change was that people had the freedom to live and work wherever they wanted. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ b. | The earliest significant change was for farming families, who were no longer isolated. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ c. | The final major change brought by the automobile was the building of superhighways, suburbs, huge shopping centers, and many theme parks such as Disney World in Florida. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ d. | The automobile revolutionized the American way of life. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ e. | The automobile enabled them to drive to towns and cities comfortably and conveniently. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ f. | In fact, people could work in a busy metropolitan city and drive home to the quiet suburbs. |

**Paragraph 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| \_\_\_\_\_ a. | In time, this melted part rises as a magma. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ b. | The formation of a volcanic eruption is a dramatic series of events. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ c. | As the plate sinks, friction and the earth’s heat cause part of it to melt. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ d. | The magma produces heat, steam, and pressure. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ e. | First of all, most volcanoes are formed where two plates collide. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ f. | Then one of the plates is forced under the other and sinks. |
| \_\_\_\_\_ g. | When the heat, steam, and pressure from the magma finally reach the surface of the Earth, a volcanic eruption occurs. |

**Practice 2: Writing topic sentences**

Writing good topic sentences for the following paragraphs in the spaces provided. Remember to include both a topic and a controlling idea.

**Paragraph 1**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Americans relaxing at home, for example, may put on **kimonos1**, which is a Japanese word. Americans who live in a warm climate may take an afternoon **siesta2** on an outdoor **patio3** without even realizing that these are Spanish words. In their gardens, they may enjoy the fragrance of **jasmine4** flowers, a word that came into English from Persian. They may even relax on a **chaise longue5** while sipping a drink made with vodka, words or French and Russian origin, respectively.

**Paragraph 2**

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In European universities, students are not required to attend classes. In fact, professors in Germany generally do not know the names of the students enrolled in their courses. In the United States, however, students are required to attend all classes and may be **penalized6** if they don’t. Furthermore, in the European system, there is usually just one comprehensive examination at the end pf the students’ entire four or five years of study. In the American system, on the other hand, there are usually numerous quizzes, tests, and homework assignments, and there is almost always a final examination in each course at the end of the semester.

**Paragraph 3**

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For example, the Eskimos, living in a treeless region of snow and ice, sometimes build temporary homes out of thick blocks of ice. People who live in desserts, on the other hand, use the most available material, mud or clay, which provides good **insulation7** from the heat. In Northern Europe, Russia, and other areas of the world where forests are plentiful, people usually construct their homes out of wood. In the islands of the South Pacific, where there is a plentiful supply of bamboo and palm, people use these tough, **fibrous8** plants to build their homes.

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**1 kimono:** lounging robe **6 penalized:** punished

**2 siesta:** afternoon nap **7 insulation:** protection

**3 patio:** courtyard **8 fibrous:** containing fiber

**4 chaise lounge:** lounge chair