

## Topic Sentences

### Lesson plan

Topic: Topic Sentences

Rationale: The basics of topic sentences

Time: 60 minutes + writing paragraphs (HW?)

### Procedure

1. Divide class into groups of threes or fours – ‘What is a topic sentence?’

### Forget Sauce Paragraph – worksheet 1

2. Give out worksheet 1 – ask students to read paragraph & check unknown vocab.
3. Teacher highlights key terms ‘*fast food chains* / *profits* / *forget sauce*’ in the topic sentence – students could use different colours.
4. Ask students to highlight the links to these words in each line of the paragraph. You could do the first line together. *Made from largely edible oil products, this condiment is never listed on the menu.*
5. Feedback using the answer sheet 1

### Missing Topic sentence - worksheet 2

6. Give out worksheet 2 – ask students to read the first paragraph and identify the key topics:  
Margaret Thatcher’s policies were dominated by the philosophy of individual freedom and self-reliance.  
And then highlight the links in the paragraph.  
During the years of the Thatcher governments Britons experienced cuts in welfare payments and drastic legal restrictions on trade unions. Public industries were sold off to private investors in the belief that the free market would deliver prosperity to all.
7. Feedback and then ask students to write the topic sentences for the four paragraphs. Teacher monitors and feedbacks accordingly.

### Writing paragraphs – worksheet 3

8. Give out sheet – students choose a topic sentence and write a paragraph to show development, links to the topic sentence and a concluding sentence.
9. HW or class – students write more paragraphs.

## Topic sentences

(Worksheet 1)

### Example paragraph

**Many fast-food chains make their profits from adding a special ingredient called "forget sauce" to their foods.** Made largely from edible oil products, this condiment is never listed on the menu. In addition, this well-kept industry secret is the reason why ingredients are never listed on the packaging of victuals sold by these restaurants. 'Forget sauce' has a chemical property which causes temporary amnesia in consumers. After spending too much money on barely edible food bereft of any nutritional value, most consumers swear they will never repeat such a disagreeable experience. Within a short period, however, the chemical in 'forget sauce' takes effect, and they can be depended upon to return and spend, older but no wiser.

### Analysis of the paragraph:

Look at how the topic sentence links to ideas developed in the paragraph – highlight the three key links of fast food chains / profits / forget sauce line-by-line throughout the paragraph.

Many fast food chains make their profits from adding a special ingredient called 'forget sauce' to their foods

- Made from largely edible oil products, this condiment is never listed on the menu
- In addition, this well-kept industry secret is the reason why ingredients are never listed on the packaging of products sold by these restaurants.
- Forget sauce has a chemical property which causes temporary amnesia in consumers.
- After spending too much money on barely edible food bereft of any nutritional value, most consumers swear they will never repeat such a disagreeable experience.
- Within a short period, however, the chemical in forget sauce takes effect, and they can be depended upon return and spend, older but no wiser.

Source: <http://www.writingcentre.uottawa.ca/hypergrammar/partopic.html>

## Answer Sheet 1

### Analysis of the paragraph:

Many *fast food chains* make *their profits* from adding a *special ingredient* called 'forget sauce' to their foods

- Made from *largely edible oil products*, this *condiment* is never listed on *the menu*
- In addition, this well-kept *industry secret* is the reason why *ingredients* are never listed on *the packaging* of products *sold* by *these restaurants*.
- *Forget sauce* has a *chemical property* which causes temporary amnesia in *consumers*.
- After *spending too much money* on barely edible food bereft of any nutritional value, *most consumers* swear they will never repeat such a disagreeable *experience*.
- Within a short period, however, the *chemical in forget sauce* takes effect, and they can be depended upon *return* and *spend*, older but no wiser

source: <http://www.writingcentre.uottawa.ca/hypergrammar/partopic.html>

## **Exercises to practice topic sentences**

[worksheet 2]

**Margaret Thatcher's policies were dominated by the philosophy of individual freedom and self-reliance.** During the years of the Thatcher governments Britons experienced cuts in welfare payments and drastic legal restrictions on trade unions. Public industries were sold off to private investors in the belief that the free market would deliver prosperity to all.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

First, Canada has an excellent health care system. All Canadians have access to medical services at a reasonable price. Second, Canada has a high standard of education. Students are taught by well-trained teachers and are encouraged to continue studying at university. Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed. Canadian cities have many parks and lots of space for people to live. As a result, Canada is a desirable place to live.

2) \_\_\_\_\_

Although student surveys always show students like to have access to materials online, the take up of purely online courses is low. When questioned, students find that studying online can be a lonely and unsatisfying experience. Not only do students miss the human interaction with other students, they also find the time lag in getting answers to their questions very frustrating.

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Research shows that countries with high levels of immigration are economically successful and that there is a correlation between a mobile labour force and economic prosperity. Immigration serves as an important source of both skilled and unskilled labour in the UK which has come to depend on migrants to plug gaps in its skilled professions and to do jobs that the local population are unwilling to do.

4) \_\_\_\_\_

Britain had an empire at this time and Germany wanted a similar role in the world. This meant having a strong navy so the Germans spent a considerable amount of time and effort building up its naval force. Britain responded to this threat to its dominance by strengthening its navy even further. This 'naval race' contributed to the increase in tension between the two countries.

## Possible Answers 2

Margaret Thatcher's **policies** were dominated by the **philosophy** of individual **freedom** and **self-reliance**. During the years of the Thatcher governments Britons experienced cuts in **welfare payments** and drastic **legal restrictions** on trade unions. Public industries were sold off to private investors in **the belief** that the **free market** would deliver **prosperity** to all.

**1. There are three significant reasons why Canada is one of the most prosperous countries to reside in.** First, Canada has an excellent health care system. All Canadians have access to medical services at a reasonable price. Second, Canada has a high standard of education. Students are taught by well-trained teachers and are encouraged to continue studying at university. Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed. Canadian cities have many parks and lots of space for people to live. As a result, Canada is a desirable place to live.

**2. Evidence from feedback on online learning and e-courses seems to suggest that there are a number of problems and issues.** Although student surveys always show students like to have access to materials online, the take up of purely online courses is low. When questioned, students find that studying online can be a lonely and unsatisfying experience. Not only do students miss the human interaction with other students, they also find the time lag in getting answers to their questions very frustrating.

**3. One of the strongest arguments in favour of a relaxed approach to immigration is that the UK benefits economically from immigrant labour.** Research shows that countries with high levels of immigration are economically successful and that there is a correlation between a mobile labour force and economic prosperity. Immigration serves as an important source of both skilled and unskilled labour in the UK which has come to depend on migrants to plug gaps in its skilled professions and to do jobs that the local population are unwilling to do.

**4. One of the most important factors leading to the outbreak of World War One was the arms race between Britain and Germany.** Britain had an empire at this time and Germany wanted a similar role in the world. This meant having a strong navy so the Germans spent a considerable amount of time and effort building up its naval force. Britain responded to this threat to its dominance by strengthening its navy even further. This 'naval race' contributed to the increase in tension between the two countries.

## **Topic sentences - development & support**

[worksheet3]

*Write a paragraph using one of the topic sentences - include support, example and a concluding sentence*

- Topic sentence
- Support
- Examples
- Concluding sentence

### **Ten Topic sentences**

1. People can avoid cybercrime by taking three main precautions.
2. There are several advantages to living and working in a small town.
3. Most UK universities require an IELTS score of 6.5 for a number of key reasons.
4. Air pollution in the city of London is the worst in the world for a number of reasons.
5. Men and women equality in family relationships face three significant challenges.
6. There are several plausible explanations for the rise in traffic congestion in the UK.
7. There are three possible solutions to prevent animals in danger of becoming extinct.
8. Effective leadership requires a range of specific qualities.
9. The colonisation of Mars would be fraught with unsurmountable difficulties.
10. Currently the divorce rate in the UK is 47%, the rationale for this is due to a number of causes.