

Note: This video has been divided into four parts. See each part and worksheet at www.EnglishUnits.com.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Paragraph (Parts 1-4): Video Notes

What is a Paragraph?

1. A paragraph is _____.
2. A paragraph has about _____ sentences.
3. The first sentence of a paragraph is _____.

Paragraph - Parts

A paragraph has _____ parts.

Part of a paragraph	What it does
Topic sentence	
Detail sentences	
Conclusion sentence	

Topic Sentence – Main Idea

1. The topic sentence tells _____.
2. The main idea is _____. It is the _____.
3. Topic sentence = _____ + _____



4. Underline the topic sentence. Then label the topic and main point.

Anna is an excellent student. She is intelligent. She is responsible. Anna always does her homework, and she is never late for class. As a result of her hard work, Anna is one of the best students in school.

Topic Sentence Practice

Instructions: Read the paragraph. Choose the best topic sentence.

Question 1.

_____. Fruits are delicious.
Examples of fruits are apples, oranges and bananas.
Fruits have many vitamins and minerals, including
Vitamin C, Vitamin E, and Potassium. For these reasons,
it is a good idea to eat lots of fruit.

- 1) What is the best topic sentence?
- a. Everyone loves fruit.
 - b. Fruit is a delicious food to eat.
 - c. Fruit is a healthy and tasty food.

Question 2.

_____. First, many schools require
two or more years of foreign language study for
graduation. Secondly, learning other languages helps us
communicate with people from other countries. Also,
knowing a foreign language can lead to job
opportunities. Finally, for many people, studying foreign
languages is fun! There are many reasons to learn a
foreign language.

- 2) What is the best topic sentence?
- a. In the USA, many students study Spanish language.
 - b. It is important to learn foreign languages.
 - c. In college, people need to know foreign languages.

Question 3.

_____. Children who have a cell
phone can call for help in an emergency. Also, they can
always communicate with their parents. Finally, cell
phones help children stay in contact with friends. For
these reasons, when possible, children should have a cell
phone.

- 3) What is the best topic sentence?
- a. There are many types of cell phones.
 - b. Cell phones help children call friends and parents.
 - c. Having a cell phone can help children in several ways.

Detail Sentences

1. Detail sentences _____.

- Sometimes detail sentences give _____.
- Sometimes detail sentences give _____.
- Sometimes detail sentences give _____.

2. Underline the detail sentences.

Anna is an excellent student. She is intelligent. She is responsible. Anna always does her homework, and she is never late for class. As a result of her hard work, Anna is one of the best students in school.

3. Let's change the detail sentence. Does the new detail sentence explain or support the topic sentence?

Anna is an excellent student. She is intelligent. **She is so beautiful.** Anna always does her homework, and she is never late for class. As a result of her hard work, Anna is one of the best students in school.

4. Let's change it again. Does the new detail sentence explain or support the topic sentence?

Anna is an excellent student. She is intelligent. **She always makes A's.** Anna always does her homework, and she is never late for class. As a result of her hard work, Anna is one of the best students in school.

Detail Sentence Practice

Instructions: Read the paragraph. Then choose the answer.

Question 1.

People should not drink soda. Soda is an unhealthy drink. It contains a lot of sugar. This is why soda is so delicious. Also, soda contains caffeine and other chemicals that are not nutritious. For these reasons, people should avoid drinking soda.

- 1) Which detail sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph?
- This is why soda is so delicious.
 - It contains a lot of sugar.
 - Also, soda contains caffeine and other chemicals that are not nutritious.

Question 2.

The best pet to own is a fish. First, fish do not require a lot of space. Secondly, fish are easy to care for. Finally, there are many types of fish that are beautiful, large, small, and exotic, so an owner has many choices of which fish to get. Of course, some fish are ugly and strange. For all of these reasons, fish make excellent pets.

- 2) Which detail sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph?
- Secondly, fish are easy to care for.
 - Finally, there are many types of fish that are beautiful, large, small, and exotic, so an owner has many choices of which fish to get.
 - Of course, some fish are ugly and strange.

Question 3.

Children should not play video games. First, children should be active, so playing outside is better than playing video games. Secondly, many video games are violent. However, many video games are not violent. Finally, time spent playing video games could be spent reading or spending time with friends and family. In conclusion, many activities are better for children than playing video games.

- 3) What is the best topic sentence?
- Everyone loves fruit.
 - Fruit is a delicious food to eat.
 - Fruit is a healthy and tasty food.

Detail Sentences – More Practice

Instructions: Each pair has a topic sentence and a detail sentence. Label each one.

1. _____ a) The best pet is a dog.
_____ b) One reason is because dogs are friendly.
2. _____ a) Broccoli has iron and Vitamin K.
_____ b) Vegetables are healthy.
3. _____ a) Biologists study living organisms.
_____ b) One organism biologists study is cells.
4. _____ a) Some species of flowers are dangerous.
_____ b) Hogweed flowers can burn your skin!

Conclusion Sentences

1. The conclusion sentence _____.

- The conclusion sentence _____.
- The conclusion sentence _____.

2. Underline the conclusion sentence.

Anna is an excellent student. She is intelligent. She is responsible. Anna always does her homework, and she is never late for class. As a result of her hard work, Anna is one of the best students in school.

3. Let's change the conclusion sentence. Does the new conclusion sentence remind us of the main idea?

Anna is an excellent student. She is intelligent. She is responsible. Anna always does her homework, and she is never late for class. Anna is a top student because she works hard in school.

4. Let's change it again. Does the new conclusion sentence remind us of the main idea?

Anna is an excellent student. She is intelligent. She is responsible. Anna always does her homework, and she is never late for class. Anna is a very good friend to many people in our school.

Conclusion Sentence Practice

Instructions: Read the paragraph. Choose the answer.

Question 1.

Walking is the best exercise. First, walking is free, so people don't need to buy a gym membership to do it. Secondly, a person can walk wherever they live. Third, studies show that walking outside not only burns calories but also helps a person feel happy and optimistic. _____.

- 1) What is the best conclusion sentence?
- a. For these reasons, walking is an excellent form of exercise.
 - b. In conclusion, walking does not cost any money.
 - c. In summary, many people love to walk.

Question 2.

Families should take a vacation at least once a year. On vacation, families can spend time together without distractions from work and school. Also, during a trip, families can explore new places and activities together, which is fun. Finally, during their time away, families can relax together without the stresses of daily life. _____.

- 2) What is the best conclusion sentence?
- a. In summary, families need vacations together to rest, do new activities, and enjoy each other's company.
 - b. In conclusion, families need vacations to see new places.
 - c. Finally, vacations are good for single people too.

Question 3.

It is important to study history. History repeats itself, so learning about the past can help us make better decisions in the present. Also, knowing about important historical leaders, wars, and events can help us understand cultures, people, and politics in today's world. Finally, learning about unusual people, places, and events in history is fascinating! _____.

- 3) What is the best conclusion sentence?
- a. In summary, history is a popular subject.
 - b. This is why everyone loves history.
 - c. In conclusion, there are many reasons people should study history.