

Every good paragraph has a topic sentence, which clearly states the topic and the controlling idea of the paragraph. A topic sentence is the most important sentence in a paragraph. It briefly indicates what the paragraph is going to discuss. For this reason, the topic sentence is a helpful guide to both the writer and the reader. The writer can see what information to include (and what information to exclude). The reader can see what the paragraph is going to be about and is therefore better prepared to understand it. The topic sentence is often the first sentence in the paragraph, but it may come second as well; in this case the paragraph begins with a general remark.

Study the following paragraphs. Think of what the topic sentence can be for paragraphs 2 and 3.

1.

Synonyms, words that have the same basic meaning, do not always have the same emotional meaning. For example, the words stingy and frugal both mean “careful with money.” However, calling someone stingy is an insult, but calling someone frugal is a compliment. Similarly, a person wants to be slender but not skinny, aggressive but not pushy. Therefore, one should be careful in choosing words because many so-called synonyms are not really synonymous at all.

2.

Learners must know when to use indefinite articles (a/an) versus definite article (the) and understand contexts where articles are omitted altogether. This is especially difficult for native speakers of languages that do not make use of articles. Differences exist also between English and other languages that use articles, which complicates article usage, leading to errors in comprehension and communication. It is common even for advanced learners to make mistakes in the use of articles, which shows how difficult an aspect of English grammar it is.

3.

People sometimes complain about having to get up early. Firstly, it can provide time for morning exercise and thus regulate sleep patterns. Studies have shown that morning exercise improves sleep quality in people who have trouble sleeping. In addition, early birds tend to perform better throughout the day in both physical and mental tasks. With extra time in the morning, one can also focus on self-care, plan their day efficiently, and enjoy a leisurely breakfast, which is never a bad way to start things off.