Topic Sentence Practice Name:

**Exercise 1 Directions**: *Read the paragraph and underline the best topic sentence.*

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| --- | --- |
| Topic Sentences:   * A: It is summer and it rained yesterday. * B: Our country is very big. * C: I like the weather in our country. * D: It can get to 50°C, for example. | Paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ It doesn’t rain very often in summer or winter. The sun usually shines all day. In winter, it can get cold in the desert, but in summer it is hot in the desert and in the cities. I love hot weather. |

What is wrong with the other topic sentences? Match them to the problem.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Problems:  It is an example.  It is not general.  It is about something different from the other sentences. | Topic Sentence Letter  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Exercise 2 Directions**: *The following groups of sentences can be arranged to form paragraphs. Record the letter for each sentence in the order in which you think they should be placed.*

Paragraph A

1. Next, add antifreeze to your windshield washer fluid; otherwise, the fluid will freeze and possibly break the container.
2. First, put on snow tires if you plan to drive on snowy, icy roads very often.
3. Driving in winter, especially on snowy, icy roads, can be less troublesome if you take a few simple precautions.
4. Finally, it is also a good idea to carry tire chains, a can of spray to unfreeze door locks, and a windshield scraper in your car when driving in winter weather.
5. Second, check the amount of antifreeze in your radiator and add more if necessary.

Paragraph B

1. A breakthrough in one of these areas will hopefully provide a means of relieving both the overstretched oil market and the environment.
2. Researchers in the automobile industry are experimenting with different types of engines and fuels as alternatives t the conventional gasoline engines.
3. One new type of engine, which burns diesel oil instead of gasoline, has been available for several years.
4. Finally, several automobile manufacturers are experimenting with methanol, which is a mixture of gasoline and methyl alcohol, as an automobile fuel.
5. A further type is the gas turbine engine, which can use fuels made from gasoline, diesel oil, kerosene and other petroleum distillates.
6. The increasing depletion of oil reserves, along with environmental concerns, have prompted some radical developments in car design over the past few years.

Paragraph C

1. Later on, people began to write on pieces of leather, which were rolled into scrolls.
2. In the earliest times, people carved or painted messages on rocks.
3. In the middle ages, heavy paper called parchment was used for writing and books were laboriously copies by hand.
4. With the invention of the printing press in the middle of the fifteenth century, the modern printing industry was born.
5. Some form of written communication has been used throughout the centuries.

**Exercise 3 Directions**: *Read the information in the table below. Next, write the letter from Paragraph C that best matches the description.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sentence Type** | **Description** | **Letter from Paragraph C** |
| topic sentence | * at or near the start of the paragraph * main / general idea of the paragraph |  |
| supporting sentences | * ideas connected to the main idea * examples connected to the main idea |  |
| concluding sentence | * at the end of the paragraph |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Paragraph A** | **Sentence Type** | **Paragraph B** |
|  | topic |  |
|  | supporting |  |
|  | concluding |  |

**Exercise 4 Directions**: *List the transition words in Paragraphs A, B, C*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Paragraph A | Paragraph B | Paragraph C |

How do the transition words effect the paragraph? Did the transition words help you figure out the sentence order?