

A topic sentence expresses a main idea that should be developed with supporting ideas. Supporting ideas show that the main idea is valid or reasonable. Supporting ideas are developed through details, which can include examples or explanations. These ideas and details are known as supporting sentences.

A. Read each topic sentence and supporting idea, and add a second supporting idea.

1. Good language learners share a number of characteristics.

a. Successful language learners have perseverance.

b.

2. There are some important steps buyers should follow when purchasing a new car.

a. Research online the type of car that best suits your budget and general needs.

b.

3. Owning a dog requires some very important responsibilities.

a. Dogs require daily walks to maintain their health.

b.

4. There are a number of music styles that are popular with young people.

a. Hip-hop, also known as rap music, is a style that grew out of American cities in the 1970s.

b.

B. Read the topic sentences and supporting ideas below, and add supporting details in the form of an example or explanation.

1. First year university students face a number of challenges in adapting to university life.

a. They have to learn to live independently for the first time. This is due to the fact that up until entering college, most students have lived with their parents and have had all important decisions made for them.

b. They have to develop effective time management skills.

.....

2. Social inequality is a growing problem with many arguing there is an urgent need to increase taxes on the wealthiest people in society.

a. One argument for imposing higher taxes on the rich is that many of them have more money than they need. For example, the world's wealthiest person is worth approximately \$200 billion, which is equal to the combined wealth of the poorest 30 per cent of the American population.

b. Secondly, money raised by increased taxes can be used to improve society.

.....

C. Use the prompts below to write a topic sentence, a supporting idea, and supporting details.

Example: **Topic:** sport **Supporting idea:** team sports **Details:** football and basketball

Sports can be divided into a number of categories. One popular category is teams sports in which players cooperate together in order to score. For instance, football and basketball are two widely played sports in which players use a round ball to score goals and points respectively.

1. **Topic:** benefits of educating girls **Supporting idea:** better economy
Details: more human resources

.....

.....

.....

2. **Topic:** advantages of working from home **Supporting idea:** less stress
Details: flexible schedule, casual clothing, and no commuting

.....

.....

.....

3. **Topic:** banning zoos **Supporting idea:** insufficient space
Details: large animals travel over 40 kilometres a day

.....

.....

.....

4. **Topic:** effects of regular exercise **Supporting idea:** improved appearance
Details: weight loss, muscle tone and posture

.....

.....

.....

5. **Topic:** difference between economy and business class flights
Supporting idea: level of comfort **Details:** legroom and reclining

.....

.....

.....