

Activity Type

Interactive reading and writing exercises

Language Focus

Topic sentences

Aim

To learn to identify and produce effective topic sentences.

Preparation

Send each student a copy of the interactive worksheet.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this topic sentences interactive worksheet, students learn to identify and produce effective topic sentences.

Procedure

Send each student a copy of the interactive worksheet.

Students begin by reading notes on ineffective versus effective topic sentences.

The students then categorise sample topic sentences as either being vague, specific, or effective.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. V 2. E 3. S 4. E 5. V 6. E 7. S 8. E

Students then examine more sample topic sentences that are either vague or specific, and re-write them so that they are effective.

Exercise B - Possible answers

1. France should be on everyone's European travel list.
2. The Olympics is the world's most important sporting event.
3. The economy showed significant improvement last year.
4. Google is one of the most innovative technology companies.
5. Harvard University is one of the world's leading universities.

Finally, students read paragraphs that are missing a topic sentence and then write an effective topic sentence for each.

Exercise C - Possible answers

1. Australia is home to a number of dangerous animals.
2. The death sentence should be abolished.
3. Surfing and snowboarding are similar in a number of ways.
4. There are a number of disadvantages to owning a car.

Note: This is an editable PDF. To edit the document, select the Edit PDF tool in Acrobat.