

Exercise 1:

Identify **the topic** and **the controlling idea** in each of the following sentences

- 1) Different culture place varying values on loyalty to the employer.
- 2) Some people prefer large weddings with lots of people, while others prefer small weddings with only very close friends and family.
- 3) Living in a dormitory may cause severe culture shock for some foreign students.
- 4) Communicating in English is a major problem for foreign students.
- 5) Living in Jakarta requires an aggressive attitude.

Exercise 2:

Study the following paragraphs to find their **topics** and write them in the space provided.

1) Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. First of all, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. Therefore, it is suitable for jewellery, coins, and ornamental purposes. Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was minted twentythree centuries ago. Another important characteristics of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications. The most recent use of gold is in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection outside the spaceship. In conclusion, gold is treasured not only for its beauty, but also for its utility (Oshima & Hogue:1981).

The topic sentence of the above paragraph is _____

2) 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, **total** a person stingy is an insult, while the word frugal has a much more positive connotation. Similarly, a person wants to be slender but not skinny, and aggressive, but not pushy. Therefore, you should be careful in choosing words because many so-called synonyms are not really synonymous at all (Oshima & Hogue:1981)

The topic sentence of the above paragraph is _____

3) Hurricanes, which are also called *cyclonos*, exert tremendous power. These violent storms are often a hundred miles in diameter, and their winds can reach velocities of seventy-five miles per hour or more. Furthermore, the strong winds and heavy rainfall that accompany them can completely destroy a small town in a couple of hours. The energy that is released by a hurricane in one day exceeds the total energy consumed by humankind throughout the world in one year (Oshima & Hogue:1981).

The topic sentence of the above paragraph is _____

Exercise 3: 1. Humans have known that earthworms have been vital to enriching Earth's rich soil all throughout history. Egyptian Queen Cleopatra called earthworms sacred. The Greek philosopher Aristotle said earthworms were the "intestines" of the soil. In 1881 Charles Darwin stated, "It may be doubted whether there are many other creatures which have played so important a part in the history of the world."

Which sentence would make the best addition to the end of this paragraph?

- a) Could Earth support mankind without the earthworm?
- b) People throughout history have understood that earthworms are extremely important.
- c) Charles Darwin was a scientist.
- d) Aristotle was a Greek philosopher and scientist.

2. Earthworms may be divided into three categories. The Endogeic or soil dwellers live in the top foot of soil. The Epigeic or litter dwellers live on the decomposing plant material in wooded area. The third type is the Anecic or the deep burrowers. The Anecic worm lives several feet under the ground. They drag organic matter from the surface to their burrows.

Which sentence would make the best conclusion to the end of this paragraph?

- a) These three types of worms have been given Greek names meaning "up from the earth", "within the earth", and "upon the earth".
- b) Earthworms live anywhere the climate is not too hot or too cold, or too wet or too dry.
- c) Earthworms vary greatly in size.
- d) During cold months worms become dormant or move to warmer locations such as the compost pile.

3. Have you ever bitten into a nice juicy apple only to find that a worm had already been there? The apple worm is really the caterpillar of the codling moth. The young hatch from eggs the size of pin heads and feast on apples for about a month. When the caterpillar is about a half-inch long it leaves the apple and spins a cocoon. After a month the adult moth emerges.

Which sentence would make the best addition to the end of this paragraph?

- a) Apples are an extremely healthy food to eat.
- b) Moths and butterflies are different in several ways.
- c) Sometimes three generations of the codling moths may live in the orchard in just a year.
- d) The codling moth is a pesky varmint.

4. The codling moth is native to Europe. Settlers brought the moth to North America with apples in about

1750. The moth moved westward across the United States and finally reached California in 1874. The moth damages apples, pears and even English walnuts.

Which sentence would make the best addition to the end of this paragraph?

- a) Several harmful insects have reached North America by transporting plants across the Atlantic Ocean.
- b) Farmers have lost millions of dollars in crops due to the codling moth.
- c) The only thing worse than biting into an apple and finding a worm, is biting into an apple and finding only half a worm.
- d) Moths are attracted to the light.

5. The symbol of the worm may be found in several figurative language phrases. When you are referring to a controversial issue you may say, "Don't open that can of worms." A person whom you do not respect may be called a worm. When you are in an awkward situation you may try to "worm your way out of it". One type of computer virus is known as a worm.

Which sentence would make the best addition to the end of this paragraph?

- a) Americans use many figurative language phrases that do not have literal meanings.
- b) Once my computer was attacked by a worm that came through on an e-mail.
- c) On one television show I watched, the team had to try to figure out which person playing the game was the worm.
- d) In each of these phrases the word worm has a negative undertone.