

Find the Topic Sentence

The topic sentence tells what the whole paragraph is about. It usually comes first, but a paragraph may open with a hook to grab the reader.

A Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph. Then finish the sentence under it.

1. Honeybees work together to keep their hive running. Some bees gather nectar from flowers. Others build wax cells or feed the young. Guard bees stand at the door and keep strangers out.

This paragraph is mostly about _____

2. Have you ever seen a bird fly backward? Hummingbirds can fly in ways other birds cannot. They can hover in one spot like a tiny helicopter. They can fly straight up, straight down, and even backward. Their wings beat so fast that they make a humming sound.

This paragraph is mostly about _____

3. A library card is one of the most useful things a kid can own. With it you can borrow books, movies, and music for free. Many libraries also lend games and puzzles. Some even let you borrow a telescope or a fishing pole!

This paragraph is mostly about _____

4. Sleep does more for your body than you might think. While you sleep, your muscles rest and repair themselves. Your brain sorts through what you learned that day. Your body even does much of its growing at night.

This paragraph is mostly about _____

5. Crash! A wave slams into the rocks and pulls back again. Tide pools are full of animals that are built to hold on tight. Sea stars grip the rock with hundreds of tiny tube feet. Mussels tie themselves down with strong threads. Limpets clamp their shells against the stone.

This paragraph is mostly about _____

B Two of the paragraphs open with a hook before the topic sentence. Write their numbers.

Paragraphs _____

Find the Topic Sentence: Answer Key

The topic sentence is underlined. The “mostly about” answers may be worded differently.

A Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph. Then finish the sentence under it.

1. Honeybees work together to keep their hive running. Some bees gather nectar from flowers. Others build wax cells or feed the young. Guard bees stand at the door and keep strangers out.

This paragraph is mostly about how honeybees work together in the hive

2. Have you ever seen a bird fly backward? Hummingbirds can fly in ways other birds cannot. They can hover in one spot like a tiny helicopter. They can fly straight up, straight down, and even backward. Their wings beat so fast that they make a humming sound.

This paragraph is mostly about the special ways hummingbirds can fly

3. A library card is one of the most useful things a kid can own. With it you can borrow books, movies, and music for free. Many libraries also lend games and puzzles. Some even let you borrow a telescope or a fishing pole!

This paragraph is mostly about why a library card is useful

4. Sleep does more for your body than you might think. While you sleep, your muscles rest and repair themselves. Your brain sorts through what you learned that day. Your body even does much of its growing at night.

This paragraph is mostly about what sleep does for your body

5. Crash! A wave slams into the rocks and pulls back again. Tide pools are full of animals that are built to hold on tight. Sea stars grip the rock with hundreds of tiny tube feet. Mussels tie themselves down with strong threads. Limpets clamp their shells against the stone.

This paragraph is mostly about how tide pool animals hold on

B Two of the paragraphs open with a hook before the topic sentence. Write their numbers.

Paragraphs 2 and 5