

ACTIVITY 2 Recognizing Effective Topic Sentences

What do you already know about topic sentences? Read each set of sentences. Write the general topic that the sentences share. Then put a check mark (✓) on the line next to the best topic sentence. Be prepared to explain your answers. The first one has been done for you.

1. General Topic: winter

- ☐ Winter is a good season.
- ☐ Winter weather is cold, and it snows.
- ☒ The best season for kids is winter.

2. General Topic: _____

- ☐ Soccer is popular for many reasons.
- ☐ You need a leather ball to play soccer.
- ☐ Soccer is a nice game.

3. General Topic: _____

- ☐ There are many people in Los Angeles.
- ☐ People from many different cultures live in Los Angeles.
- ☐ Los Angeles is a big city in California.

4. General Topic: _____

- ☐ Monolingual dictionaries have only one language, but bilingual dictionaries have two languages.
- ☐ Many language students prefer bilingual dictionaries to monolingual dictionaries.
- ☐ Dictionaries that have two languages, such as French and English, are called bilingual dictionaries.

5. General Topic: _____

- ☐ French perfumes are expensive for a number of reasons.
- ☐ My mother's perfume smells flowery.
- ☐ You can purchase perfumes in expensive blue crystal bottles.

6. General Topic: _____

- ☐ *An American Education* has 946 pages.
- ☐ A woman graduates in *An American Education*.
- ☐ *An American Education* is an excellent historical novel.

How did you decide which sentences were the best topic sentences? What were you looking for?
Discuss your ideas with your classmates.



For more practice with recognizing effective topic sentences, try Unit 3, Activity 1 on the *Great Writing 2*
Web site: elt.heinle.com/greatwriting