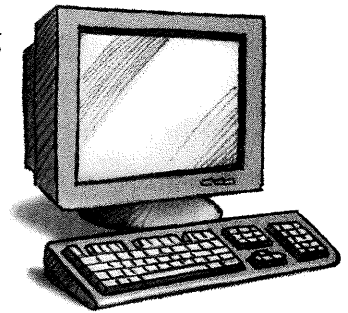


Identifying the Unrelated Sentence

All the sentences in a paragraph should relate to its main idea. The main idea may be stated in a topic sentence. The supporting sentences give details about that idea. If a sentence does not relate directly to the main idea, it should be removed.

Notice how all the sentences in the following paragraph work together. The first sentence is the topic sentence. It tells readers that the Internet helps travelers. Sentences 2, 3, and 4 give details about ways the Internet helps.



The Internet can be a great help in travel planning. Within minutes you can buy discount airline tickets. You can reserve a room at a hotel. Some sites even offer dollars-off coupons for attractions you might enjoy.

In the next paragraph, the main idea is not directly stated. However, all the sentences except one tell about Travis's bad experience this morning. The underlined sentence does not develop that main idea. It should be removed.

Travis remembered why he hated city driving. First, he got stuck in a traffic jam on the freeway. Travis drives a compact car. Getting off at the wrong exit, he became lost on one-way streets. When he got to his building, there was no place to park. Next time, he will take the bus.

Read the paragraph. Then choose the correct answer to each question.

She's a little old for toys, but Ali collects dolls anyway. These are not just any dolls, though. They are characters from popular movies. As a child, Ali really enjoyed *Cinderella*. The dolls must be in their unopened boxes. Ali hopes that someday doll collectors will make her rich.

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?
 - A Ali enjoyed *Cinderella*.
 - B Ali collects dolls.
 - C Collectors may pay top dollar for popular dolls.
2. Which sentence does not tell more about the main idea?
 - F These are not just any dolls, though.
 - G Ali hopes that someday doll collectors will make her rich.
 - H As a child, Ali really enjoyed *Cinderella*.

Practice

One sentence in each paragraph below does not belong. Cross out that sentence. On the line, explain why that sentence should be deleted.

1. Why was Jimmy Stewart such a popular movie star? He seemed just like us, only better. Stewart was born in 1908. He usually played ordinary men who tried hard to do the right thing. His characters faced trouble. But they came through with honesty, grace, and humor.

The crossed-out sentence doesn't belong because

2. To Lynn, summertime meant one thing: the pool. Every morning, she went to the pool early. She gave swimming lessons. In the afternoon, she worked as a lifeguard. Lifeguards must pass difficult tests. Before going home, she always swam a few laps just for fun.

The crossed-out sentence doesn't belong because

3. Joe is looking for a new job. His brother has a job at the garage. Joe checks the want ads every day. He sends applications to local businesses. He has updated his résumé. If Joe keeps up the effort, he is sure to land a job soon.

The crossed-out sentence doesn't belong because

4. The garden was lovely all year. During winter, the fir trees stood out against the white snow. With spring came tulips and flowering trees. Summer brought roses and day lilies. Fall was time for the wild colors of dahlias. Flowers need plenty of water and sunlight.

The crossed-out sentence doesn't belong because

Apply

Read each of the following paragraphs. If all the sentences are related to the main idea, write *Correct* on the line. If one sentence is unrelated, cross it out.

1. Deep-pile rugs lay on gleaming hardwood floors. I am glad that I don't have to clean those floors. Dark velvet curtains covered the windows. At one side of the room was an old piano. The flowers in vases around the room sent a sweet smell into the air. Light twinkled from a crystal chandelier. The whole room sent a message of calm and luxury.
- _____

2. People often do strange things. Think about those who bought pet rocks during the 1970s. They spent good money on rocks! Soil is made up of tiny bits of rock. They gave their rocks names. They carried their "pets" around in boxes with breathing holes. This fad lasted only a short time. But it proved that people will do almost anything to fit in with the crowd.
- _____

3. Will is a model railroad lover. Go down into his basement and you enter a special world. Basements can be damp and chilly. There he has laid a network of tracks around a tiny city. He'll be glad to get the train going for you. It will go past the courthouse, over the bridge, and through the park. Will thinks his creation is worth every minute he has put into it.
- _____

4. Each lighthouse looks unique. One lighthouse might be white with red stripes. The next one down the coast might be all white. They are different for a good reason. By being different, they helped sailors know where they were. Sailors would see a lighthouse. Then they would check a list. The list would tell them the location of the lighthouse that matched that description.
- _____

5. Each family member is proud of a special skill. George knows all the words to songs by the Beatles. Blake can make pizza. Robin can wiggle her ears. Alice enjoys swing dancing. Swing was popular in the 1940s. What a strange family!
- _____

Check Up

Read each paragraph. Then circle the letter of the sentence that does not belong.

1. 1. If you want to save dollars, watch your pennies. 2. Pennies are made of zinc that is coated with copper. 3. Pack your lunch instead of eating out. 4. Resolve to buy clothes on sale and never at full price.

A Sentence 1
B Sentence 2
C Sentence 3
D Sentence 4

2. 1. The boa constrictor's favorite food is bats. 2. To catch a bat, the boa hangs from vines. 3. When a bat flies at night, it may bump into a waiting boa. 4. The boa wraps itself around the bat and squeezes it to death. 5. Many people think bats are creepy.

F Sentence 1
G Sentence 3
H Sentence 4
J Sentence 5

3. 1. When you need to stay awake, have a cup of coffee. 2. The caffeine in the coffee revs up the nervous system. 3. Today, most grocery stores sell decaf coffee. 4. Caffeine makes the brain work faster and keeps you alert.

A Sentence 1
B Sentence 2
C Sentence 3
D Sentence 4

4. 1. Most Americans love the Statue of Liberty. 2. She raises her lamp in New York Harbor. 3. New York City has many interesting sites. 4. The huge statue stands for freedom for all.

F Sentence 1
G Sentence 2
H Sentence 3
J Sentence 4