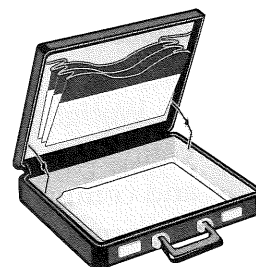


Identifying an Unrelated Sentence

The Chandler Company treats its employees well. The salaries are generous, and each employee receives a bonus at holiday time. Everyone who works for the company gets full health benefits. Theresa started working at Chandler's last year. The company even provides an excellent day care center, which is available to the children of all employees.



As you read the paragraph above, you probably noticed that the content of the underlined sentence stood out from the rest. Although it touched on the same topic, the Chandler Company, it was not related to the paragraph's main idea, the ways in which the company treats its employees well.

When you compose a paragraph, make sure each sentence belongs in the paragraph. You may want to begin with a topic sentence that states the main idea. As you write, stay focused on the main idea. Avoid adding sentences that do not support it or describe it more fully. After you write a paragraph, review it carefully to be sure that every sentence relates clearly and obviously to the main idea.

Read the following paragraph. Then answer the questions that follow.

Each of the three early car engines had advantages and disadvantages. The cars whose engines ran on electric batteries were clean, quiet, and easy to start, but slow. Cars that ran on steam engines were clean and fast, but their range was limited to about 150 miles. Trains also used steam engines. Cars equipped with gasoline engines were fast and easy to start, and their range was unlimited, but they broke down regularly and were dirty.

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph?

2. What is a supporting idea that tells more about the main idea?

3. Which sentence does not tell more about the main idea?

B Practice

Read each paragraph. Then follow the directions below.

We should all remember our manners when we talk on the phone. Too often, we treat callers with a rudeness we would never use in face-to-face conversations. First, use a pleasant voice on the phone, not too loud or too soft. Give the caller a chance to state the reason why he or she has called. If the person the caller is trying to reach is unavailable, carefully take a message.

1. Choose the main idea of this paragraph.
 - A Modern people are less polite than people in earlier times.
 - B We should be courteous when using the phone.
2. One of the sentences below is not related closely enough to be included in the above paragraph. Circle the letter of that sentence.
 - A Wait until the caller says good-bye before hanging up the phone.
 - B People who call during meals can be annoying.

Ellis Island, near New York City, was a busy place in the early part of the twentieth century. About fifteen million immigrants from all over the world passed through it. At Ellis Island, the would-be immigrants were surrounded by noise and confusion. Families speaking many languages waited in long lines until they could be interviewed.

3. Choose the main idea of this paragraph.
 - A During the early part of the twentieth century, the officials at Ellis Island were too busy to do a good job.
 - B Ellis Island was a busy place during the early part of the twentieth century.
4. One of the sentences below is not related closely enough to be included in the above paragraph. Circle the letter of that sentence.
 - A Many immigrants to the United States were from Eastern Europe.
 - B American doctors quickly checked the health of the immigrants, looking for problems such as disease or heart trouble.

C Apply

Read 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. The ski resort has facilities to please every winter sports lover. For the downhill skier, there are beginner hills as well as hills that challenge the best skiers. If you like cross country skiing, you can set off on the resort's beautiful network of trails. The resort makes snow on days when natural snow is scarce. You can ice-skate on the frozen lake in front of the main lodge.

2. A professional nanny is more than just someone who baby-sits a child. A nanny is expected to be one of the child's first teachers, making playtime into learning time. He or she should be energetic, enthusiastic, and good at keeping the child happy. However, caring for a child is not all fun and games. The nanny must be ready to discipline the child in a fair and responsible way. Nannies must communicate well with adults, too, so that parents feel comfortable with the care their children are receiving. All in all, being a nanny is not an easy job.

3. The hurricane that hit Hawaiian island Kauai in 1993 was unusually destructive. Its intense winds blew roofs off many houses and public buildings. Perhaps eighty to ninety percent of the homes in one area of the island of Kauai were totally destroyed. The winds flattened forests and fields of sugar cane. Sugar cane is one of Hawaii's most important crops. Along the beach, huge waves swept cars away, washed out roads, and destroyed boats that had been anchored. All told, the hurricane cost about \$1.6 billion in damages.

4. George Kaufman, a famous playwright, was always worried about his health. One of his best-known plays, *You Can't Take It with You*, was recently put on by the Westview Little Theater. He was so nervous that he refused to touch doorknobs, which he saw as covered with germs. In his nightmares, he saw himself the victim of all kinds of serious diseases. Kaufman was constantly calling his doctors about real or imagined problems. Because he feared that he was losing his teeth, he saw his dentist about six times every year. Because he thought he was going blind, he bought several pairs of glasses, each one with a different correction.

D**Check Up**

Read each paragraph. Then choose the sentence that does not belong.

1. 1. Music has the ability to affect our emotions. 2. Psychologists tell us that fast, high-pitched music creates a happy, energetic feeling in most people. 3. Conversely, music that is slow and low-pitched makes us feel sad. 4. The most popular radio station in our city plays music that is labeled "easy listening."
 - A Sentence 1
 - B Sentence 2
 - C Sentence 3
 - D Sentence 4

2. 1. One of the privileges of holding a top government office is the opportunity to live in a mansion at voter expense. 2. The U.S. president lives in the magnificent White House in Washington, D.C. 3. The city of Washington, D.C., was designed by engineer and architect Pierre L'Enfant. 4. Since the 1970s, a fine Victorian home in Washington has been the residence of the U.S. vice president.
 - F Sentence 1
 - G Sentence 2
 - H Sentence 3
 - J Sentence 4

3. 1. Many people doodle when they talk on the phone or listen to a lecture. 2. A simple doodle may offer a glimpse into your personality, or so some people think. 3. One study linked doodles made of single lines or unattached shapes with people who have a high need for achievement. 4. The study suggested that people whose doodles feature wavy lines and connected shapes were more likely to be laid back and relaxed.
 - A Sentence 1
 - B Sentence 2
 - C Sentence 3
 - D Sentence 4