

## The topic sentence

The most important sentence in a paragraph is the 'topic sentence'. It is called the 'topic sentence' because it tells readers what they are going to read about.

A topic sentence has two parts:

1. A topic: what the paragraph is about,
2. A controlling idea: what the writer is going to focus on in the paragraph.

For example:

**Topic sentence 1:** My sister and I respect our parents all the time.  
topic controlling idea

**Topic sentence 2:** A cheetah is a wild animal from the cat family.  
topic controlling idea

**B. Look at the topic sentences from paragraphs you have seen in Vision 2. Find the topic and the controlling idea.**

- 1) Language is a system of communication.
- 2) About fifty percent of the world's languages have fewer than 5000 speakers.
- 3) Bad habits and addiction can be harmful to health.
- 4) Art is what people create with imagination and skill.
- 5) Handicrafts are good examples of the art and culture of a country.