

TECHNICAL MISTAKES MADE BY WRITER IN WRITING

Fragment (incomplete sentence)

Read a short paragraph below and identify the mistakes!

I and my wife are in Mecca now, we are following Umroh tour by Soetomo package. Yesterday, I went to Masjidil Haram mosque to prey. A big and beautiful mosque. We often get ill. Because the temperature is different between day and night.

The characteristics of fragments:

No Subject

- Did very well on her math exam.
- Taken by the students who have taken 138 credit semester.

No verb

- Both Alexander and her younger sister, Lisa.
- Television's effects on children.
- Living in an American dormitory.

No Independent Clause (only dependent clause)

- Before I went to school.
- That have the same basic meaning
- If the patients have enough rest.

The followings are conjunctions showing dependent clause:

Although	even though	unless	wherever
After	even if	where	
Adverb of time : when, before,			
Adjective clauses : which, that, who, whose			
Adverb of cause : because, since, for			
etc			

Run On Sentences

Read a short paragraph below and identify the mistakes!

Gold is prized for one main important characteristic. Gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion, so it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes and gold never ends to be polished and will remain beautiful forever, as an example a Macedonian coins remains as untarnished today as the day it was minted twenty-three centuries ago.

Ways to correct run on sentences:

1. Use punctuation, usually a period to separate the two sentences.
 - She loves to cook she is always in the kitchen
 - She loves to cook. She is always in the kitchen.
2. Use coordinating conjunction (*and, but, so, or, nor yet*) to connect two clauses.
 - The movie was boring we watched it anyway.
 - The movie was so boring **but** we watched it any way.
3. Use a subordinating conjunction to connect the two clauses
 - I took my umbrella with me the meteorologist predicted rain.
 - I took my umbrella with me **because** the meteorologist predicted rain.

Correct the following sentences!

1. Because the dean requires us to take TOEFL despite IALTS which is very expensive.
2. We surveyed PLN pole from Grissik to Mangsang land with our contractor that will remove some PLN poles next so we need to prepare our land data because our contractor will install PLN poles that are located outside our area so contractor has to know our land boundary.
3. All students must take English I. Although they think that it is no longer important.
4. Even though being a technician was such a great job for men because I could use my skills, the job was so fun so that I didn't want to leave it, but I guess I'll have to start job hunting and I had better start looking for it at JPC.

PREWRITING

There are several ways to boost your ideas when you want to write: Brainstorming, clustering, free writing, and keeping a journal.

I. BRAINSTORMING

Brainstorming is a process of listing any idea of one topic. The following is an example:

Topic: Superstitions

*Friday 13th
breaking mirror
always wear pearl necklace
look four-leaf clover
don't stay on 13th floor
in a hotel*

*eat scrambled eggs for breakfast on
day of a game
don't walk under ladder
don't step on cracks
wear green when I fly
use lucky shoelaces in tennis shoes*

Step II:

A: _____

A.1. _____

A.2. _____

B: _____

B.1 _____

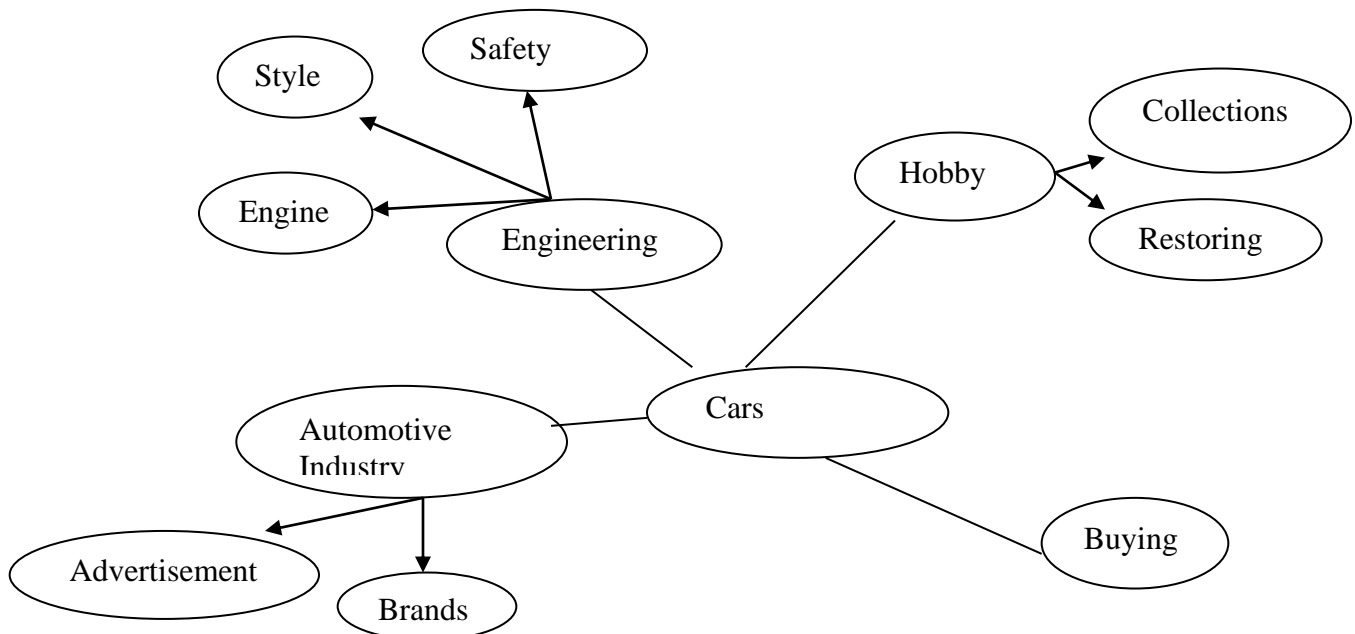
B.2. _____

B.3 _____

And so on

Step III: (Combine into one paragraph)

II. CLUSTERING



To cluster, follow these steps:

1. Write your topic in the center of a piece of paper and draw a circle around it.
2. Think about your topic and write any idea that come to mind in circles around the main circle.
3. Connect these ideas to the center circle with a line.
4. Think about each of your new ideas, write more related ideas in circle around them, and connect them to their corresponding ideas with a line.
5. Repeat the process until you run out of ideas.

The example above is called clustering. From the clustering, you can start writing (free writing). Now try to make a short writing based on your clustering with *Music* as the topic

Writing Paragraph

There are several things we need to notice when we write a paragraph (description, cause-effect, narration, comparison-contrast):

1. Topic sentence
2. Supporting sentences
3. Development of single focus
4. Organization of logical and cohesive sentences

I. Topic Sentence

Look at the following sentences:

- a. Swimming is fun. (too general)
- b. I swim laps for 30 minutes every morning. (too specific)
- c. Exercising every morning has several positive effects on my health. (not too general and not too specific)

Analyzing topic sentence

For each statement below, underline the topic and draw a circle around the focus.

1. Mahatma Gandhi was an influential leader.
2. E-mail is a great way to stay in touch with your family and friends.
3. The clothes we wear often reflect a lot about our personality.
4. The Japanese subway system is very efficient.
5. Television commercials are often insulting women.
6. My older brother is a perfectionist.
7. The laws on child abuse should be strictly enforced.
8. Being a twin has both advantages and disadvantages.
9. The new shopping mall has brought many economic benefits to our community.
10. Golf is a difficult sport to master.

Evaluating topic sentences

Discuss whether the following topic sentences are good or not because they are either too general or too specific. Rewrite the improved topic sentences!

1. My round-trip plane ticket to Ankara, Turkey, cost over \$950.
2. The topic of this paragraph is learning new things.
3. American music reflects the native music of many of its immigrant groups.

4. Everyone needs hobby.
5. American music is the subject of this paragraph.
6. The first published collection of African-American music, *Slave Songs of The United States*, appeared in 1897.
7. Vacations are very expensive.
8. Russian is a difficult language to learn.
9. Learning how to write in English can be a frustrating experience for many foreign students.
10. The Chinese language has over 50.000 characters.

Writing Topic Sentences

Write a topic sentence for each of the paragraphs below!

1. _____
Most often, they keep them for pleasure and companionship. In fact, many people consider their pet to be part of the family. In addition to their value as loved and loving companions, pets serve practical purposes, such as protecting homes and property, destroying insects, and even providing means of transportation. They may also serve as emotional outlets for the elderly or the childless. Recently, the benefit of pet-facilitated psychotherapy has been demonstrated. Finally, some people keep pets for their beauty or rarity or, in the case of birds, for their songs.

2. _____
For instance, climate affects the kinds of clothes we wear an even the colors we choose to wear. Since it affects the kinds of crops we can grow successfully, it influences our eating habits. Architecture is also affected by climate. Engineers and architects must think about climate when they make decision about the construction, materials, design, and style of buildings. Even our choices in transportation are determined by the climate in which we live. Climate also plays a big part in economic development. A climate that is too hot, too cold, or too dry makes farming, industry, and transportation difficult and slows down economic development.

3. _____
We were there for two weeks, and not a day went by without something unusual happening. On our second day a boa constrictor swam right in front of us while we were rafting down the Rio Claro. Another day, spider monkeys threw branches at us deep in the rain forest. Hiking on the primitive trails in Corcovado National Park, we saw brilliant scarlet macaws and toucans with huge yellow beaks. Whenever we look at the pictures from our trip, we all agree that it was the most exciting one we have ever taken.

Writing Topic Sentence

Write a topic sentence based on the following topics.

1. Smoking cigarettes _____.
2. The spread of AIDS _____.
- 3, The average Indonesian teenager _____.
4. Global warming _____.
5. Pollution _____.

Evaluating Support

Par 1: My chemistry course is very difficult and time consuming. The professor doesn't seem to realize that chemistry isn't the only course we're taking. He gives lots of homework and too much reading. The worst thing is that his lecturers are really boring. I'm not interested in chemistry, so I hate reading the textbook. I know I'm not the only student complaining about this course.

Par 2: My chemistry course is very difficult and time consuming. First of all, we're responsible for two labs every week, which means a minimum of ten hours a week in the lab. To make matters worse, the professor gives at least three tests per month. The questions are very tricky, and we have to memorize long, complicated formulas. Finally, the reading load is also quite heavy – as much as twenty-five pages a night. I often spend all my free time doing the required reading.

- a. Which paragraph provides more specific support?
- b. What four supporting details does the author include in that paragraph?

Analyzing Paragraph for Single Focus

As you read it, decide which sentences do not belong in the paragraph because they do not support the topic sentences. Cross out the irrelevant sentences.

Every year on New Year's Eve, the city of Boston hosts a community celebration called First Night so people can celebrate the new year together. Boston was the first city in the United States to launch a special event to celebrate New Year's Eve. First Night attracts over 1,5 million people. For the \$20 cost of a first night button, people gain general admission to many different events. Boston is the higher education capital of the United States. The two largest universities within the city itself are Boston University and Northeastern University, and in nearby Cambridge are Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The evening begins with a grand costumed parade around the Boston Common and ends at midnight with fireworks over Boston Harbor. In between, there are more than 250 performances of international music, dance, and theater, as well as puppetry and many films to choose from. Boston is also host to the well-known Boston Marathon, which is run in April. Two hundred cities and towns in the United States, Canada, Australia have now launched celebrations like the one in Boston for New Year's Eve.

Writing Supporting Sentences

There are common mistakes made by a writer when they write a paragraph. The mistakes are:

1. There are irrelevant sentences.
2. Supporting sentences are not related to topic sentence.
3. Supporting sentences are too general.
4. A paragraph only consists of supporting sentences without topic sentence.

I. Irrelevant sentences

Read the following paragraph!

Storm in North Miami caused many buildings ruined. At least 50 houses lost their roof. Fifteen houses were totally damaged. Two public schools were broken. Local

government predicts that it needs much money and takes a long time to recover those damages.

The last sentence does not have anything to do with the ruined buildings. In fact, it creates a new focus i.e. local government prediction of total damages. It does not mention the ruined buildings. Therefore, the last is irrelevant sentence.

II. Supporting sentences which are not related to the topic sentence.

Music produces many products like cassette, CD, MP3, MP4, etc. These products have advantages and disadvantages. A cassette costs from Rp 17.500 to Rp 25.000 and a CD costs at least Rp 45.000. MP3 and MP4 are much more expensive than CD and cassette, for about Rp 150.000-Rp300.000.

The second sentence is the topic sentence. The controlling ideas are advantages and disadvantages. In contrary, the supporting sentences do not mention the advantages and disadvantages of the products, but they compare the cost of CD's, cassettes, MP3 and MP4.

Dangdut is very popular in my country. I have 40 CD's in my disc rack. I always play 3-6 CD's every night before I go to bed or when I study. In this month, I am planning to attend Dangdut concert in Jogjakarta. I wish I could take some pictures of my favorite singers.

The supporting sentences in the paragraph above do not explain how Dangdut becomes popular in writer's country. They talk about the writer's interest of Dangdut. They explain how many collections she/he has, his/her habit, and his/her plan.

III. General supporting sentence

The repairs on my car were much more expensive than I had anticipated. I think I was overcharged for everything. I never imagined that the final bill would be so high. I had to borrow some money from my friend to pay it.

The paragraph above has a good topic sentence but the supporting sentences are too general, e.g the second and the third sentence. Those sentences can be specified. For example, those sentences can be replaced by "I had to pay \$395 to get the brakes repaired and another \$100 to get the wheel aligned. The engine oil change was \$30, and the replacement of the air filter was another \$20." These sentences indicate that the bill was so high or very expensive.

IV. A paragraph without topic sentence

Thailand has miles of empty beaches. They are beautiful, clean, and crowded, even in summer. You can spend the whole afternoon on a beach and not see another person. In Japan, on the other hand, the beaches are very crowded. You can hardly find a place to sit down at the more popular Japanese beaches. The beaches in Northern differ in another way. The water is so cold, so most people go to the beach only to sunbathe. Along the French Riviera, the beaches are rocky, not sandy as they are on tropical islands. Each type of beach – empty or crowded, sandy or rocky – has its own special qualities to enjoy

If you take a look closely at the paragraph, the paragraph talks about the beaches in Thailand, Japan, Northern, and French Riviera. It does not have a topic sentence which can generalize those supporting sentences.

PRACTICE WRITING SUPPORTING SENTENCES

1. I love eating food from different countries.
 - I go to Hoka-Hoka Bento twice a month and my favorite menu is Ebi Katsu.
 - Every weekend when my sister visits me, I order Pizza.
 - When I pick up my brother from his school, I often buy Kebab which is near from his school.
2. There are several ways to conserve electricity.
3. It is almost impossible to study in my dormitory.

REVISING AND EDITING

When you revise your writing, you can :

- **add new ideas** or more specific support.
- **eliminate irrelevant sentences.**
- **rearrange ideas** to improve the organization.
- **edit to correct the grammar, punctuation, and spelling.**

Editing

There are some common mistakes that the students make.

1. Agreement of Subjects and Verbs

It means that when the subject is singular, the verb must be singular. When the subject is plural the verb must plural.

Underline the correct verb for each of the following sentences!

- a. One of my friends (has/have) a new car.
- b. Everyone who works hard in this class (do/does) well.
- c. Many of my friends (like/likes) the professor.
- d. The instructor (don't/doesn't) give a lot of homework.
- e. One of the reasons that I chose to go into medicine (is/are) that I like to work with people.
- f. Fifty dollars (is/are) too much to spend on dinner in the restaurant.
- g. Both Jane and her cousin (go/goes) to the University of Michigan.
- h. The book and the movie (has/have) the same ending.

2. Agreement of Pronouns and Nouns

Underline the correct verb for each of the following sentences!

- a. Everyone on the team (comes/come) to practice everyday.
- b. All the team members (has/have) to work hard.
- c. Each of students (is/are) improving.
- d. He said, "Nobody (cares/care) about this game."
- e. Someone (is/are) going to pay this mistake.

3. Agreement of Possessive of Nouns or Pronouns.

Underline the correct possessive for each of the following sentences!

- a. Both of the students forgot (his/their) notebooks.
- b. Neither of my sisters owns (her/their) own books.
- c. Mathew likes (his/their) meat cooked well done.
- d. The Wexlers send (his/their) children to private school.
- e. One of the women has retired from (their/her) job.
- f. This isn't Connie's jacket. It's (my/mine).

4. Punctuation

Punctuate the following sentences!

- a. Dr Anderson was born in Portland on April 22 1981
- b. I just finished reading Hemingway's novel The Old Man and The Sea.
- c. The restaurant has three specialties grilled steak marinated chicken and fried shrimp
- d. In conclusion Mario Vargas Llosa is one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century
- e. Marion said I can't go with you because I have too much homework.

5. Capitalization

Capitalize each of the following sentences correctly!

- a. my Russian history teacher is very handsome.
- b. have you read *romeo and juliet* in your english literature yet?
- c. I meet my advisor every tuesday and thursday morning.
- d. my sister, truth, has just returned from a trip to istanbul and athens.
- e. shopping is one of most popular activities of visitors to new york city.

Add the correct capitalization and punctuation to the sentences below!

- a. traffic is causing serious pollution in some cities such as athens mexico city and los angles
- b. my favorite poem is fire and ice by Robert frost
- c. i'll meet you on tuesday afternoon at 430 in front of library on liberty street
- d. the himalayas are the world's highest mountains
- e. professor dickens is sick so his tuesday night class will be canceled
- f. mrs baker is one of the most inspiring speakers i've ever heard

Conquer Confusing Words

Work in pair

Look for the differences among the following words!

Accept and Except	Than and Then
Advice and Advise	There, Their, and They're
Affect and Effect	Use, Used, Be used to, and Used to
It's and Its	Whose and Who's
Suppose and Be Supposed to	Hurt, Heart, and Heard

There are ten mistakes in the following paragraph. Find and correct them.

There are a lot of interesting things to see and do in new york city. It is home to over 150 world-class museums. Their are art museums, science museums, photography museums, natural history museums, and even a museum of seaport history. New York is known for their rich variety of theater, music, and dance. From the bright lights of

Broadway and the respected stages at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall to the high kicks of the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall and incredible jazz at intimate clubs, there is something for everyone. Many people go to New York. For the wonderful restaurants. There are thousands of restaurants to please every palate and wallet If you are looking for place to shop. You will find everything you can imagine. With more than 10,000 shops filled with brand names and bargains from around the world, NYC are a shopper's paradise. as for me, people-watching is my favorite New York pastime.