



课程名称：《大学英语》

课    题：How to write the topic sentence

授课教师：程庆源

学    校：上海市商业学校

授课日期：2012年10月25日

## 上海市商学院《大学英语》教案

教学对象	11 Electronic Commerce	课程	College English	授课日期	2012年10月25日			
课题	How to write the topic sentence	计划学时	1	教具	Computer, whiteboard, projector			
教学目 标	By the end of this lesson, students will be able to: 1. Know about the rules for writing the topic sentence 2. Learn how to write the topic sentence							
	<b>Knowledge focus:</b>	<b>Competence focus:</b>			<b>Quality focus:</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Learn to master the rules for writing the topic sentence</li> <li>➤ Learn to know about the concept of the controlling idea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Learn to write topic sentence</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Learn to form team spirit</li> <li>➤ Learn to cultivate such professional qualities as rigor and conscientiousness.</li> </ul>			
教学重点与教学难点	<b>1. Key points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Learn the structure of a paragraph</li> <li>➤ Learn the concept of the controlling idea</li> <li>➤ Learn to write the topic sentence</li> </ul> <b>2. Difficulties:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Learn the concept of the controlling idea</li> <li>➤ Learn to write the topic sentence</li> </ul>							
教学要求	知识&技能	重点	难点	目标达成度				
				知识	理解	应用	分析	综合
	Learn to master the rules for writing the topic sentence	√		√	√	√		
	Learn to know about the concept of the controlling idea	√	√		√	√		
	Learn to write the topic sentence	√	√		√	√		√
教学方法	Communicative Approach Task-based method							
课外作业	Write the topic sentence of two topics: 1) <i>Entertainment on Line</i> 2) <i>Should students own credit cards</i>							

教学反思	It would be better if there were a brainstorm when the students wrote down the topic sentences about the “Smoking” and “Killing Time Indoors” ,as the students had little idea about the topics.
------	--

## Teaching Procedures

### Step 1 Lead-in (5 minutes)

#### Objective:

- ✚ To identify the defects of students' composition.
- ✚ To know about the task of this lesson.

1. Lead-in to the topic through a composition:
  - Show a student's composition which he wrote last week from PPT
  - Ask students to find the defects of the composition.
2. Explain the task of this lesson: How to write the topic sentence.

### Step 2 Review and introduce the rules for writing the topic sentence (10 minutes))

#### Objective:

- ✚ To review the structure of a paragraph
- ✚ To learn the rules of writing the topic sentence

1. Review the structure of a paragraph:

Topic sentence
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. supporting sentence</li> <li>2. supporting sentence</li> <li>3. supporting sentence</li> </ol>
concluding sentence (optional)

2. Explain the rules for writing the Topic Sentence.
- It is a complete sentence which contains a subject and a verb.
  - It is usually a statement, not a question.
  - It is the most general statement in the paragraph which does not give any specific details.
  - It has two parts: the **topic** and the **controlling idea**.

Notes: Topic refers to the subject of the paragraph.

Controlling idea is a word or phrase that the reader can ask questions about: How? Why? In what ways? What does that mean? etc.

For example:

- 1) A growing number of people tend to stay indoors for most of their spare time.

In this sentence, the topic is “a growing number of people”; the controlling idea is “stay indoors for most of their spare time”.

The question a reader can ask is “How/In what ways do they spend most of their spare time?”

- 2) People’s opinions vary when it comes to this way of killing time.

In this sentence, the topic is “people’s opinion”; the controlling idea is “vary”.

The question a reader can ask is “How/why do the people’s opinions vary?”

✧ The answers to the questions are the supporting sentences of one paragraph.

- It should be opinions.

Notes: A simple statement of fact cannot serve as a topic sentence because the reader is unable to ask a single question, and therefore cannot develop a paragraph.

For example:

- 1) They spend the majority of the time online chatting, blogging, shopping or playing computer games.
- 2) We start to work at 8:00 every day.

The both sentences above cannot be a topic sentence. Because you cannot write a paragraph supporting the statement, there is nothing to be said about it.

### Step 3: Practice (20 minutes)

#### Objective:

- ✚ To do some exercises to identify the topic and the controlling idea
- ✚ To practice writing the topic sentence according to the rules for writing the topic sentence.

### Practice 1:

1. Ask students to give the reason why the following can not serve as topic sentence.
  - A hamburger is a kind of fast food.  
Reason: a simple statement of fact.
  - The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.  
Reason: a simple statement of fact.
  - Taking a summer course at Beijing University.  
Reason: incomplete sentence
  
2. Ask students to read each topic sentence below. Identify the topic and the controlling idea, and then ask specific questions that the paragraph following each topic sentence might answer.
  - A home stay (helps foreign students know more about American customs).  
Topic: a home stay  
Controlling idea: helps foreign students know more about American customs  
Question: How does a home stay help foreign students know more about American customs?
  
  - The real-name train ticket has brought about some problems.  
Topic: the real-name train ticket  
Controlling idea: brought about some problems.  
Question: What are the problems?  
How the real-name train tickets bring about the problems?
  
  - There are two factors contributing to this phenomenon.  
Topic: this phenomenon.  
Controlling idea: two factors.  
Questions: What are the two factors? How are they contributing to the phenomenon?
  
  - Travelling by bike has several advantages over travelling by train.  
Topic: travelling by bike  
Controlling idea: several advantages  
Questions: What are the advantages of travelling by bike?  
What are the disadvantages of travelling by train?

### Practice 2:

Ask students to decide which of the sentence the topic sentence is.

#### Topic: No Bike on Campus

- a. They also argue that prohibiting students from riding while allowing teachers to drive cars on campus is not fair.

- b. Some people have expressed their disagreement on forbidding students to ride bikes.(TS)
- c. Besides, cycling is a cheap way to get around and has no pollution to the environment.
- d. They say that bicycles have become a very useful vehicle which can help students save a lot of time.

**Topic: Killing Time Indoors**

- a. A great number of people maintain that staying indoors is cheap, comfortable, and most importantly, very safe.
- b. Other, however, frown upon staying indoors for too long.
- c. People's opinions vary when it comes to this way of killing time.(TS)
- d. They are worried that lack of physical exercise and face-to-face communication with others will do harm to people's body and mind.

**Practice 3**

There are two topics followed by 3 possible purposes for writing a paragraph. Ask students to write down appropriate topic sentences that fit those purposes.

Notes: The process is organized by group work with 4 or 5 students. The students are given 3 minutes to discuss, then they will be asked to write down their answers on the blackboard.

**Topic 1: Cigarette smoking**

Purpose for writing: a) to warn others

Topic sentence: Smoking is harmful to people's health. (for reference)

Purpose for writing: b) to show the smoking/cancer connection

Topic sentence: Smoking can easily lead to cancer. (for reference)

Purpose for writing: c) to suggest techniques for quitting

Topic sentence: There are a number of methods for a person to give up smoking. (for reference)

**Topic 2: On Food Safety**

Purpose for writing: a) to describe the problem on food safety in society

Topic sentence: Nowadays, unsafe food can be found in the market, which has aroused a lot of public attention. ( for reference)

Purpose for writing: b) to analyze the reasons on unsafe food

Topic sentence: There are a couple of forces for the unsafe food. ( for reference)

Purpose for writing: c) to provide some measures on the problem

Topic sentence: Measures should be taken to deal with the problem. ( for reference)

**Step 4: Task Summary and Homework (5 minutes)**

**Objective:**

- ✚ To try to compare some groups' answers, and emphasize the rules for writing the topic sentence
- ✚ To extend the in-class task through homework

2. Assign the homework:

- Write the topic sentence of two topics: 1) *Entertainment on Line*  
2) *Should students own credit cards?*