

Types of Topic Sentences

Questions: Ask a question about the events of that day's reading assignment. Do not forget to put a question mark at the end.

Examples: - Why did Claudia and Jamie decide to run away from home?
 - How was Aslan able to save the kingdom from the White Witch?

Number Statement: These topic sentences use a "number word" in them such as several, many, three, numerous, various, etc.

Examples: - Fudge did several mischievous deeds to his siblings.
 - Socks was a fantastic kitten for many reasons.

Declarative Statement: A sentence that makes a general statement about the reading.

Examples: - Anatasia proved that she was dedicated to climbing the rope.
 - Wilbur felt like he would never again have a friend like Charlotte.

Situation/Stance: This is a complex sentence with two parts. The first part broadly introduces the topic, and the second part clearly states a viewpoint or opinion on the topic. Some starter words include: after, although, before, if, in order to, since, though, unless, when, whenever, while.

Examples: - Even though I like all the characters, Ramona is the funniest by far.
 - Although Yellow Bird misbehaved, I believe he wanted to do better.

Figurative Language

Similes: are comparisons that show how two things that are not alike in most ways are similar in one important way. Similes are a way to describe something. Authors use them to make their writing more interesting or entertaining. Similes compare things using the words "like" or "as" in the sentence.

Examples: - Playing chess with Ashley is **like** trying to outsmart a computer.
 - His temper was **as** explosive **as** a volcano.

Metaphors: Compare two things without using the words "like" or "as" in the sentence.

Examples: - Brian was a wall, bouncing every tennis ball back over the net.
 - Our old cat, a bolt of lightning, caught his prey.

Idioms: An expression of a given language that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements. It does not really mean what it says.

Examples: - That car cost an arm and a leg. (Means the car was very expensive)
 - The president received the red-carpet treatment. (Means he was treated very well)

Personification: Giving human traits (qualities, feelings, action, or characteristics) to non-living objects (things, colors, qualities, or ideas).

Examples: - The sun stretches its warmth across the land.
 - The chair danced as the baby bounced to and fro.

Hyperbole (exaggeration): a figure of speech in which statements are exaggerated. It may be used to evoke strong feelings or to create a strong impression. It is not meant to be taken literally.

Examples: - I nearly died laughing.
 - He **is** older than the hills.

Alliteration: the repetition of a leading vowel or consonant sound in a phrase.

Example: "Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers"

Pun: A play on words, sometimes on different senses of the same word and sometimes on the similar sense of different words.

Example: - A fight broke out in a kitchen, egged on by the waiters, two cooks peppered each other with punches. One man delivered the first blows, but his goose was cooked.