

Unit 3: Cities

Topic Sentences

A Read the paragraph. Underline the first sentence. The first sentence in a paragraph is often the topic sentence. It states the main idea and the controlling idea of the paragraph.

My neighborhood is changing fast. Last year, people had to walk very far to catch the bus. Now, the bus goes right down the main street. I only have to walk one block to catch it. With the new bus service, my neighborhood looks more attractive to new people. There are a lot of new restaurants and stores nearby. Many people are building houses here. Next year, this neighborhood will be more crowded.

B Read the other sentences in the paragraph again. List three ways that the writer's neighborhood is changing.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C Read the paragraph and choose the best topic sentence.

Residents of large cities need a place to relax and breathe fresh air. City parks have trees and birds, so residents can rest and connect with the natural world. In addition, city parks are places for family fun. Parents and their children can run or do other exercises in a park. People can also participate in organized sports, such as soccer or baseball, in some parks.

1. Parks are good places for city residents to get some exercise.
2. Parks are important places for people who live in cities.
3. Parks are a natural habitat for wild animals.

D Read the following paragraph. Then write a good topic sentence.

_____ . For example, rural areas are usually quiet, so people who live there can sleep well at night. Rural areas are also clean. They are much less polluted than big cities, which is better for residents' health. Another advantage of rural life is the opportunity to see plants and animals every day. In rural areas, people don't have to go to the zoo or to a park to see the natural world.

WORD FOCUS

A **rural** area is in the country and is not close to a large city.