

Chapter 2

revision

Finding topic sentence

- Choose the best topic sentence from each group. Select the sentences that can be supported with details or examples. The sentences should be specific enough to be interesting and give definite direction to a paragraph.

1.

Riding horses is something that I do.

Riding horses is my favorite hobby.

Riding horses is a hobby.

2.

Temperatures in Taipei are gradually changing.

Temperatures in Taipei are gradually warming.

Temperatures in Taipei are being studied by scientists.

Descriptive Paragraphs

Concentrate on conveying a single, effective picture to the reader.

Literature Model

Hard and cruel and bitter was the land that met his gaze. Before his feet the highest ridge of Ephel Duath fell steeply in great cliffs down into a dark trough, on the further side of which there rose another ridge, much lower, its edge notched and jagged with crags like fangs that stood out black against the red light behind them: it was green. Beyond it, but almost straight ahead, across a wide lake of darkness dotted with tiny fires, there was a great burning glow, and from it rose in huge columns a swirling smoke, dusky red at the roots, black above where it merged into the billowing canopy that roofed in all the occurred land.

J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King*

Remember Details
When you write, really try to create a picture of Tolkien's world and to express the author's tone.

Model
Your descriptive paragraph will have a greater impact if it evokes a particular mood rather than just lists the details that aren't unified. **Mood is the feeling created in the reader by a literary work or passage.** Examples are meant to inspire you to create an evocative scene. Maybe you intend to communicate a happy light-hearted feeling or a sad, nostalgic one.

Articles

- Fill in the blanks with either "a", "an", or "the".
- I went to 1) _____ airport at 6:00 AM yesterday. I had to catch 2) _____ flight to Paris. The lines at 3) _____ airport were very long, so I had to wait 4) _____ long time. Once 5) _____ plane took off, I tried to get some sleep but I couldn't. Then I ate 6) _____ pretty good meal, 7) _____ rare occurrence on airplanes! Later, I spoke to one of 8) _____ flight attendants for 9) _____ while. She was pretty. She told me that 10) _____ pilot of 11) _____ airplane was French. I managed to fall asleep for about 12) _____ hour. After I woke up, I felt refreshed. I ordered 13) _____ drink, then another. Generally, it was 14) _____ pretty smooth flight.

-ing

- Fill in the blank by adding the *ing* ending to each word in parentheses.
- 1. I am _____ the school flag in Friday's parade. (carry)
- 2. Why are you _____ at a green light? (stop)
- 3. She is _____ the bus to Chicago. (ride)
- 4. We are _____ to Orlando. (fly)
- 5. They are _____ the knot in June. (tie)
- 6. Friday night, the kids are _____ in a tent. (sleep)
- 7. Chad was _____ a lawyer about the accident. (see)
- 8. The bank was _____ my check. (hold)
- 9. The Johnsons were _____ their trip to New York. (map)
- 10. Angela was _____ the white curtains orange. (dye)

- Write a descriptive paragraph about yourself.