

Reading Comprehension

Grade 4

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Sports Favorites



A **topic sentence** tells you the **main idea** of a paragraph.

Read each paragraph below. Choose the letter of the best topic sentence.

1. _____ Actually, bat and ball games have been played since ancient times. The English still play a game called cricket, which is a lot like baseball. Americans have played baseball-type games since the 1800s, when such games were called rounders or town ball. An official set of rules for baseball was not written until 1845.
- A. Baseball is America's national pastime.
- B. Many baseball players start out in the minor leagues.
- C. Many people think that baseball was the first bat and ball game.



2. _____ All you need is a rectangular field and a ball. The object is to move the ball down the field and through the opponents' goal without using your hands. Players wear shorts, shin guards, numbered shirts, and shoes with cleats. The goalkeeper is the only player who can touch the ball with his or hands.
- A. Soccer is a fast-moving game that requires little equipment.
- B. Pelé is probably the most famous soccer player in the world.
- C. Women's soccer has become as popular as men's soccer.

Be Creative! Write a topic sentence for the following paragraph.

To stay in top shape for a game, many athletes work out. They get exercise by working out with weights. Some athletes run, while others ride bikes. This helps strengthen their hearts. It is also important to eat properly to stay in great shape.

Great White Sharks

Details support the **main idea** of a paragraph.

Read the paragraph. Write the main idea in the large oval below. Write four details that support the main idea in the smaller ovals.

Ever since the movie Jaws, people have been afraid to go in the water, fearing attack by great white sharks. These sharks, however, do not normally prey on humans. Although they are known as killers, great whites usually eat dolphins, seals, other sharks, and sometimes small whales. Great white sharks like to surprise their prey. If a great white shark knows you see it, it will probably go away. If a great white shark does bite a human, it usually backs off. Scientists believe that the shark realizes that humans are not its natural prey. The shark knows it has made a mistake and does not return for

another bite! Many people think that these sharks like to attack small boats. This is not so. When sharks detect movement, they simply like to check out what is going on in their territory. So, the next time you go for a swim in the ocean, remember that a great white shark is not really interested in having you for lunch!

