

Unit 4

Modern Technology

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Reading: Innovations

Aim of this section is to:

- Get better understanding of a text when skimming by focusing on the **topic sentences**.

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Topic sentence

- 1) It is often **the first sentence** in a paragraph.
- 2) It **summarizes** what the paragraph is about.
- 3) It is very important as the **other sentences** in the text **must be connected with** the topic sentence.
- 4) **Nothing** can **modify** it, **contradict** it or say something which is not contained in the topic sentence.

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How to identify the main message (topic sentence) as quickly as possible?

- look at the **title**.
- quickly skim the text to find the **topic sentences**.

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Writing Technology – good or bad?

Aim of this section is to:

- Organize their ideas for an essay in a **logical order**.
- Link those ideas with appropriate **linking words**.

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STUDY SKILL Organizing ideas (1)

When writing an essay where you have to give two sides of an argument:

- organize your ideas into arguments **for** & arguments **against**, & give some **examples**.
- write a **paragraph for**, & a **paragraph against**, giving your ideas in a logical order.
- write an **introduction** & a **conclusion**. Give your **personal opinion** in the conclusion.

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Purpose of each paragraph	Mobile phones P. 24
Introduction	Mobile phones are now part of our everyday lives. Most people find them essential and could not manage without them. However, there are also some drawbacks to owning and using a mobile phone.
Paragraph for	There are three main advantages to having mobile phones. Firstly, there is the convenience of being able to make or receive a phone call at any time and in any place. Secondly, they are essential for keeping in touch with family and friends. Parents worried about their children can always ring them to check they are safe, and children can let their family know if they are going to be late home. Finally, mobile phones can save lives. For example, if there is an accident, help can be called immediately, wherever the accident takes place.
Paragraph against	On the other hand, there are significant problems with the use of mobile phones. In the first place, using mobile phones can cause accidents, for instance, when people are driving and using their phone at the same time. In addition, the loud use of mobile phones in public places such as restaurants and cinemas is rude and can be very irritating for other people. Lastly, there has been an increase in street crime directly related to mobile phones. People have been attacked and their phones stolen from them.
Conclusion	In conclusion, I believe that, despite the disadvantages, mobile phones are essential to modern life and that the advantages of owning one are far greater than the disadvantages.

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STUDY SKILL

Linking ideas (2)

To help the reader understand your writing and follow your ideas, link short, simple ideas. Use:

- *firstly, secondly,...*
for more than one argument or idea
- *however* (see Study Skill p13), *on the other hand, despite*.
for a contrast between two ideas
- *for instance, for example,...*
for an example to illustrate an idea
- *in conclusion, to sum up,...*
for the final comment

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STUDY SKILL

Avoiding repetition (1)

- Use synonyms to avoid sounding repetitive in your writing.
- A good dictionary will often provide a synonym within the definition of a word.

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Review P. 27

1 Look at the essay titles. Brainstorm and write down three arguments **for** and three arguments **against** each title.

Using computers saves a lot of time.

Arguments for

- Easy to correct work.
- Don't have to write essays, etc. again.
- Can do research without going to a library.

Arguments against

- People spend too much time on the appearance (font, bold, etc.) of their work.
- There is so much information available you spend too much time to finding good information.
- It's easy to lose files, misname them, etc.

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Cars should be banned from city centres.

Arguments for

- Public transport is not designed for individuals.
- Many people need to carry things with them.
- People pay tax on cars + pay parking, etc. so they have the right to use them.

Arguments against

- Cars cause pollution.
- Many accidents.
- Many traffic jams –time consuming.

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Young people spend too much time playing computer games.

Arguments for

- Computer games teach good keyboard skill.
- Some games are very educational.
- Games can be sociable – many games played with others.

Arguments against

- Computer games make young people less sociable.
- Some games are very violent & competitive.
- Young people are taking less exercise – getting fat & unfit.

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People have become too dependent on modern technology.

Arguments for

- Mobile phones connect people.
- Technology frees peoples mind to think about more important things.
- A country can't compete in the world unless its people are good with modern technology.

Arguments against

- People use calculators, so are becoming innumerate.
- People use mobile phones, so don't write anymore.
- People use computers, so become antisocial.

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