

# 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.