

Lesson 15 Stay on Topic

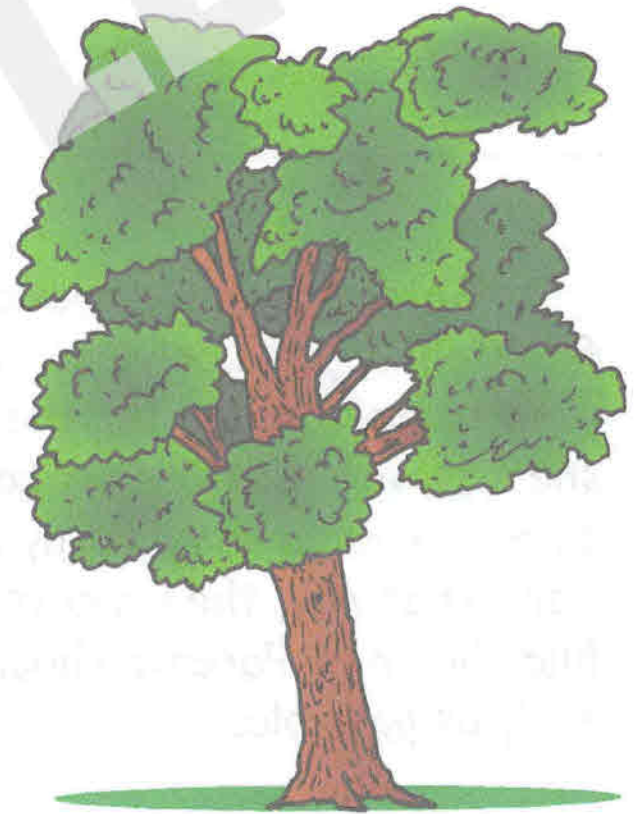
When you write a paragraph, write about just one thing at a time. If you stay on topic, your writing will be more clear and more interesting.

Paco wrote about planting a tree. Read Paco's paragraph.

There is a new park at the end of the block. We planted an oak tree there last week. First, we had to dig a big hole. Mr. Orez put in some special soil. Then, it took three of us to move the tree into the hole. It was heavy! We all scooped the dirt back around the tree. Then, Mr. Orez taught us a goofy dance. When I was little, I took dancing lessons. He said it would pack the soil down so the tree could stand up. It must have worked. The tree looks great.

Paco did a good job with his paragraph. His ideas are clear, and he tells the steps of planting a tree in order. However, Paco put in a sentence that doesn't belong. The paragraph is about planting a tree. We don't need to know about Paco's dancing lessons. Paco's writing would be just fine without that sentence. Draw a line through that sentence. Then, read the paragraph again.

Here is what Mr. Orez wrote about planting the tree. Read his paragraph. Find and draw a line through the sentence that does not belong.



The park is coming along well. The neighborhood kids had such a good time planting that oak tree last week. It took three of us to get that tree moved into the hole. Next week, I hope to have some flowers to plant. The kids looked pretty funny stomping that dirt down, but they were having fun. That is the whole point of this park.

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Paco's sister, Julia, wrote about the new park, too. Read her paragraph. Look for a sentence that is not on topic. When you find it, draw a line through it.



Planting the tree last week was fun, but I can't wait for next week.
Mr. Orez said he wants to plant some flowers. I hope the flowers have
bright colors. I have a dress with lots of bright colors. They will look so
pretty beside the playground.

Can you stay on topic? Write a paragraph about a tree, a park, or a playground. Make sure every sentence belongs. If you need more information for your paragraph, read a newspaper article or a book. Or, ask an adult to help you use a good Web site.
