FROM READING TO WRITING

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Series Editor LINDA ROBINSON FELLAG

PEARSON Longman
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UNIT 1

Inventions

Discussion

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Name an old or modern invention that benefits many people. How has this invention helped people in their daily lives?
2. List these inventions in chronological (time) order, from oldest to newest: the typewriter, the Internet, the telephone, the thermometer, and the automobile.
Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Match the boldfaced words with the definitions in the box.

1. There is an **underlying** assumption that the Internet was invented to benefit all people, but it was actually first created to help scientists only.

2. The dictionary offers a **systematic** way to look up words and definitions because it is arranged alphabetically.

3. When companies create a new product, they must **take into account** how much it will cost to make. They must also consider whether people will want to buy it.

4. The first movies were silent. Later, when technology improved, sound was **incorporated** into movies to make them more entertaining.

5. The most **prominent** building in Paris is the Eiffel Tower. You can see it from miles away.

6. Henry Ford made all of his Model T cars have a **uniform** size and shape. As a result, they all looked similar.

7. Alexander Graham Bell’s invention of the telephone has **fostered** easier communication between people.

8. Making a long-distance phone call requires connections over an **extensive** system of telephone lines over thousands of miles.

9. France was the first country to **implement** the metric system in 1795. Today, 95 percent of the world uses the metric system.

10. Black and white televisions were very popular when they were first produced. **Nonetheless**, color televisions eventually replaced them in most homes.

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a. very large in size, amount, or degree
b. help develop a skill, feeling, idea, etc. over a period of time
c. very basic or important, but not necessarily easily noticed
d. organized carefully and done thoroughly
e. consider or include particular facts or details when making a decision or judgment about something
f. in spite of what has just been mentioned
g. the same in all of its parts or among all of its members
h. include as part of a group, system, plan, etc.
i. large and easy to see
j. begin to make a plan, process, etc. happen
Skimming for Main Ideas

Skimming means reading a text very quickly to identify main ideas. When readers skim, they don’t need to know every detail in the text. They are only looking for the most important information. Students often need to skim when they take timed reading exams or are preparing for an essay or research paper.

Use these steps to skim a text:

- **Read the title and any subtitles.**
- **Read the first and last paragraph.**
- **Read the first sentence of all the middle paragraphs.**

Practice

_Skim the reading “A Zone in Time.” Then answer the questions._

1. What is the main idea of the article? Circle the letter of the best answer.
   - a. the Egyptian sundial
   - b. the differences between old and new clocks
   - c. the history behind time zones

2. Which paragraphs discuss these main ideas? Write the number of the paragraph next to each idea.
   - 2. a. how the Egyptians measured time
   - ___  b. why European cities used to be on different times
   - ___  c. why the railroad made time more important
   - ___  d. why Sir Sandford Fleming invented time zones
   - ___  e. how time zones have changed the world
A Zone in Time

1 Time flies. Time is money. Time is of the essence.¹ Humans are so obsessed² with the concept of time that the world itself seems to “tick.” Today, there is an underlying assumption that everyone in the world arranges activities according to the same 24-hour period. The idea of a standardized³ time, however, is a relatively modern concept. Years ago, people living in the same country, or even the same town, did not necessarily follow the same time. In fact, it took thousands of years for people to discover a way to measure this thing we call “time.”

2 The concept of measuring time began with the Egyptians in 3500 B.C.E. The Egyptians were fascinated by the science behind the sun and stars and wanted to measure the passing of time in a systematic way. They placed a tall, pointed stone in a location that received continuous sunlight, and followed the shadow of the stone to determine the time of day. They used “noon” or “midday” to describe the time of day when the shadow was longest. The result was the world’s very first sundial.

3 In the years that followed, people began using marks on a circle to divide the shadows into separate hours. However, despite these improvements, sundials were still not very precise. They did not take into account that the amount of sunlight could vary depending on the time of year. Moreover, they could not indicate the passing of the nighttime hours.

4 About five thousand years after the invention of the sundial, the Italian inventor Galileo began to experiment with the pendulum.⁴ In 1656, Dutch mathematician and astronomer Christiaan Huygens used this new invention and incorporated it into his design for the first mechanical clock. Finally, time became more accurate. Now, unlike the ancient Egyptians, people could easily count minutes and even seconds both during the day and at night.

5 Pendulum clocks appeared all over major European cities in the early 1800s, but they were usually on different times. Elaborate clocks were placed on prominent buildings in cities and towns, and local townspeople depended on the bell of the clock tower to know when each hour had passed. However, each town had to make its own best guess of when the sun was at its highest peak, or 12 noon. Consequently, local time for one town was often different from the time in a neighboring town.

6 Not having a uniform time for all towns did not cause problems initially. In the early 1800s, people did not have regular contact with other cities and towns, so there was no need to standardize a national time. But when the railroad appeared during the Industrial Revolution,⁵ everything changed.

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¹ time is of the essence: used to say that it is important to do something as quickly as possible
² obsess: think about something all the time so that you cannot think of anything else
³ standardize: make all of one particular type, the same as each other
⁴ pendulum: a long stick or string with a weight at the bottom that swings regularly from side to side, especially in a large clock
⁵ Industrial Revolution: the period in the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe when machines and factories began to be used to produce goods in large quantities
7 Trains fostered more contact between cities and towns than ever before. But because towns operated at different local times, travelers had to reset their watches when they arrived at a new city. Furthermore, train schedules could not be synchronized because each town’s official time was different. This caused much confusion for travelers, who often missed their trains.

8 The solution to this problem came from Sir Sandford Fleming and his invention of time zones. Fleming was a railway engineer who created the first extensive system of railroads in eastern Canada. Because he was in the railroad business, Fleming wanted to implement a worldwide standard time to keep all cities and countries synchronized. Since the sun circles the earth every 24 hours, Fleming wanted to divide the world into 24 separate time zones. He also wanted to create a prime meridian, or a location where time would begin each day.

9 Fleming proposed his ideas to the International Meridian Conference in 1884. The conference viewed Fleming’s ideas with some skepticism. Nonetheless, it agreed to designate the longitude of Greenwich, England, as the prime meridian since many British railway companies were already using Greenwich mean time (GMT) as their standard time. However, it took a while for all countries to adopt Fleming’s time zones. By 1895, American states began to abide by the Pacific, mountain, central, and eastern time zones. However, it was not until 1918 that the United States government passed the Standard Time Act to make the use of time zones mandatory for the entire nation.

10 Today, Fleming’s time zones have become the standard for measuring time all around the world. Thanks to his invention, people no longer have to guess what time it is. Travelers and businesspeople know that when it is 12:00 P.M. in New York, it will be 5:00 P.M. in London and 2:00 A.M. in Tokyo. So, the next time you catch a plane on time, give thanks to the man who made it all possible. Without the results of Fleming’s ingenuity, you could be waiting at the gate for a very long time.

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6 synchronize: arrange for two or more actions to happen at exactly the same time
7 skepticism: an attitude of doubt about whether something is true, right, or good
8 abide by: accept and obey a decision, rule, agreement, etc., even though you may not agree with it
9 ingenuity: skill at inventing things or thinking of new ideas

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**Identifying Main Ideas**

**Answer the questions.**

1. How did the Egyptians measure time?
2. Why did European cities use to be on different times?
3. Why did the railroad make time more important to people?
4. Why did Sir Sandford Fleming invent time zones?
5. How have time zones changed the world?
Identifying Details

Scan (read the text quickly to find specific information) the reading on page 4. Complete each sentence with the missing information.

1. The ____Egyptians_____ invented the world’s first clock in 3500 B.C.E.
2. _______________ could not keep accurate time, and they did not work in the dark.
3. The railroad was invented during a period of history called the _______________ _______________.
4. The _______________ _______________ is on the longitude of Greenwich, England.
5. In 1918, the United States passed the _______________ _______________, which required all states to use Sandford Fleming’s time zones.

Making Inferences

Infer what the writer would say is true even though it is not directly stated. Check (✓) each statement the writer would agree with.

✓ 1. The ancient Egyptians didn’t know about minutes and seconds.
   __ 2. The sundial was not a popular invention.
   __ 3. During the early 1800s, many people had clocks in their homes.
   __ 4. At first, many people believed Fleming’s time zones would never work.
   __ 5. Fleming proposed using time zones because they benefited him.

Using Adjective-Noun Collocations

Collocations are words that often go together, or collocate. Certain adjectives are frequently used with certain nouns to make adjective-noun collocations. For example, the adjective heavy can be used to describe many nouns, but not all nouns. A person can have a heavy influence or a heavy accent, but not a heavy pronunciation.

Practice

A. Scan Reading 1 and look for the adjectives in the box. Match each adjective with the noun it collocates with in the reading.

   extensive  prominent  systematic  underlying  uniform
1. **underlying** assumption
2. ____________ way
3. ____________ buildings
4. ____________ time
5. ____________ system

**B. Complete each sentence with the correct adjective-noun collocation from the chart.**

Some Adjective-Noun Collocations

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<td>factor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>message</td>
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<tr>
<td>systematic</td>
<td>error</td>
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<td>method</td>
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<td>prominent</td>
<td>person</td>
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<td>extensive</td>
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1. Companies do an **extensive amount** of research before they decide to make a new product. They talk to many people to see if they would be interested to buy it in the future.

2. Most inventors use a(n) ____________ ____________ when developing an invention. They take the process one step at a time.

3. Laptop computers don’t have a(n) ____________ ____________. They can range from a few pounds to more than ten pounds.

4. Convenience was the ____________ ____________ behind the invention of supermarkets.

5. The invention of the camera had a(n) ____________ ____________ on the art world. Photography became a new art form, and many artists started to paint nonrealistic pictures.

6. Benjamin Franklin was not only a famous inventor, but he was also a(n) ____________ ____________ in early American politics.
FROM READING TO WRITING

Reflecting on the Reading

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Name an invention that helps to save you time. How much time does it save you? What would your life be like if you didn’t have this invention?
2. How important is it to you to be on time to an appointment or meeting? Do you believe some cultures value being on time more than others? Explain.

PRE-READING 2

Discussion

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Do you prefer to make your own meals? Why or why not?
2. Do you think restaurant food is better than homemade food? Explain.
3. What are some reasons that people choose to buy frozen food rather than fresh food?

Vocabulary

Read the boldfaced words and their definitions. Then complete each sentence with the correct word. Change the form of words as needed.

alteration: a small change that makes someone or something slightly different

captivate: attract and interest someone very much

commence: begin or start something

commonplace: happening or existing in many places, and therefore not special or unusual

exceed: be more than a particular number, amount, etc.

persistent: continuing to do something even though it is difficult or other people oppose it

reluctant: slow and unwilling

revolutionary: completely new and different, especially in a way that leads to great improvements

trend: a general tendency in the way a situation is changing or developing

trigger: make something happen
1. The automobile was a(n) ____________ invention. It completely changed the way people moved from place to place.

2. Cartoons ____________ children when they first appeared on television in the 1950s. Children were attracted to them because they saw characters come to life on the screen.

3. The production of laptop computers ____________ long after desktop computers were first introduced.

4. Scientific discoveries often ____________ new advances in technology, even in unrelated fields.

5. The light bulb is an invention that has had very few ____________ over time. Light bulbs of the 19th century would still work in today’s lamps.

6. People are sometimes ____________ to buy a brand-new invention because they worry that it won’t work correctly.

7. Sunglasses became popular in the 1930s. Today, wearing sunglasses is still a very popular ____________ around the world.

8. It took Albert Einstein 10 years to develop his theory that E=mc². Because he was so ____________, he never stopped working on it until he found the answer.

9. Scales at airports make sure that a person’s baggage doesn’t ____________ the legal weight limit.

10. Fax machines are ____________ in many businesses. Thousands of companies use them every day.

**READING 2**

The Remarkable Clarence Birdseye

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In the 1950s, Americans were glued to the television. This revolutionary invention captivated American audiences and transformed the way American families spent their free time together. Television also changed the way people ate. By 1954, TV dinners—complete frozen dinners on a metal tray that could be cooked in the oven—had appeared in American grocery stores. Dinner no longer had to take time away from (continued)

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1 be glued to something: look at something with all your attention
watching TV. Americans could dine while they tuned in to their favorite shows, and many did just that. In the first year that TV dinners appeared in American grocery stores, more than 10 million were sold, and since then, the frozen food business has become a multibillion dollar industry. However, the frozen foods of the 50s and today could never have existed without an even more important invention—the process of freezing food itself. It was Clarence Birdseye who was responsible for figuring out how to freeze foods so that they remained fresh and ready to eat out of the freezer.

2 Clarence Birdseye was born in 1886 in Brooklyn, New York. He showed a great interest in food at a young age when he took a cooking class in high school. After he graduated from college, Birdseye worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During this time, Birdseye began eating unusual foods. He even made his own soup, which sometimes consisted of mice, rats, gophers, or chipmunks.

3 In 1912, Birdseye moved to Canada, where his relationship with frozen food commenced. For eight years, Birdseye traveled the cold Canadian terrain by dogsled to collect and sell animal furs. Along the way, he ate birds, polar bear, skunk, and even whale. He also consumed a lot of fish, and he soon began to notice that fish still tasted good even after it had been frozen in the snow and then thawed.2 During his travels, Birdseye met the Inuits, a group of people who live in very cold regions of Canada. He observed that the Inuits froze fish so quickly that it kept its original flavor and texture better than fish that was slowly frozen. Watching the Inuits triggered Birdseye’s efforts to duplicate their quick-freezing process when he moved back to the United States in 1920. His dream was to make frozen foods available to all people.

4 After six years and some alterations to the Inuits’ freezing method, Birdseye eventually found success, inventing the first machine that could flash freeze3 food. Because he needed a place to store these frozen foods, Birdseye also invented the first commercial freezer. Unfortunately, his inventions required a lot of money, and Birdseye was broke.4

5 Although many people were reluctant to believe that frozen food would become a major success, in 1929 Birdseye convinced the Postum Company to buy his invention for $22 million. Working for the Postum Company, Birdseye and 22 chemists created a packaging system that used cellophane5 to cover the food cartons. The company changed the name of his food products to Birds Eye Foods, and on March 6, 1930, the first frozen foods appeared in 18 grocery stores in Springfield, Massachusetts. According to Birds Eye Foods, shoppers could choose from 27 different items, including frozen peas, spinach, raspberries, fish, and various meats.

6 The new food was not an immediate success. The items were expensive. Furthermore, grocery stores did not have freezers to store the products. They were stored in ice-cream cabinets and were not easily visible. During the 1930s, many people in the food business believed frozen foods would only be a passing trend.

7 But Birdseye was a very persistent

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2 *thaw*: become warmer and change from frozen to unfrozen

3 *flash freeze*: freeze food quickly so that its quality is not damaged

4 *broke*: having no money

5 *cellophane*: thin, transparent material used for wrapping
man, and he refused to accept failure. Stores could not afford to buy freezers for frozen foods, so Birdseye invented a cheap freezer display case that stores could rent. Because he wanted to sell his foods nationwide, Birdseye rented special railroad cars to ship his company’s products all across the United States. Birdseye had figured out how to make his frozen foods available to all people, and this marked the true birth of the frozen food industry. By the 1950s, frozen food sales exceeded $1 billion. Birdseye’s invention was here to stay.

Today, frozen meats and vegetables have become commonplace in many parts of the world, from Japan to Europe to Central and South America. Birdseye’s invention revolutionized the food industry, but Birdseye never saw himself as a revolutionary person. He once said, “I do not consider myself to be a remarkable person. I did not make exceptionally high grades when I went to high school. I never finished college. I am not the world’s best salesman. But I am intently curious about the things which I see around me, and this curiosity, combined with a willingness to assume risks, has been responsible for such success and satisfaction as I have achieved in life.”

Identifying Main Ideas

Read each question. Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the reading?
   a. Clarence Birdseye spent years inventing frozen food, which has changed the way millions of people eat.
   b. During the 1950s, watching television became very popular in American homes.
   c. Birdseye took a long time to develop frozen food, and it eventually made him poor.
   d. At first, people didn’t think frozen foods would become popular because they were expensive.

2. Why was Birdseye’s time in Canada so important?
   a. He tried eating many different types of unusual animals.
   b. He discovered how well frozen fish kept its original taste.
   c. He worked as a fur trader and traveled around a lot.
   d. He was forced to travel around the country by dogsled.

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 5?
   a. Birdseye’s experiments with frozen food cost him a lot of money.
   b. Birdseye did not want to sell his invention to the Postum Company.
   c. Birdseye used cellophane to cover the frozen meals he created.
   d. The Postum Company helped Birdseye develop and sell his food.
4. What is the main idea of paragraph 7?
   a. Sales of Birds Eye frozen foods didn’t exceed $1 billion until the 1950s.
   b. Stores weren't able to afford the freezers that Birds Eye Foods required.
   c. Railroad cars were used to transport frozen meals to grocery stores.
   d. Birdseye succeeded because he was persistent and didn’t accept failure.

**Identifying Details**

*Scan the reading on pages 9–11. Complete each sentence with the missing information.*

1. Birdseye's first job was with the U.S. Department of ____________________.
2. In 1912, Birdseye left his job and moved to ________________.
3. The ________________ are a group of people who live in very cold regions of Canada.
4. In ________________ , Birdseye sold his invention to the Postum Company.
5. Sales of frozen food exceeded $1 billion by the ________________.

**Making Inferences**

*Infer what the writer would say is true even though it is not directly stated. Check (✓) each statement the writer would agree with.*

___ 1. Convenience is an important value in American culture.
___ 2. Birdseye didn't know whether frozen food would become popular.
___ 3. Birdseye wanted to invent things that made people's lives easier.
___ 4. Americans buy more frozen food items than the Japanese or Chinese.
___ 5. Birdseye did not care if his invention made him rich and famous.
FROM READING TO WRITING

Reflecting on the Reading

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Which quality do you think is the most important for a successful inventor to have: intelligence, curiosity, or persistence? Choose one and explain.
2. Why do you think people are sometimes reluctant to try a new invention? Explain.
3. If you had the chance to meet either Sir Sandford Fleming or Clarence Birdseye, who would you choose? Why?

WRITING

Writing an Essay

An essay is a group of paragraphs that discusses one main topic. In this book, you will write essays with four, five, or six paragraphs. There are many different kinds of essays, but all essays have the following parts:

• **Introduction.** The introduction is the first paragraph of the essay. It introduces the topic and includes the **thesis statement.** The thesis statement is the sentence that expresses the main idea of the essay. It is usually the last sentence of the introduction.

• **Body paragraphs.** The body paragraphs are the middle paragraphs of the essay. Each body paragraph discusses one specific idea about the thesis. A body paragraph begins or ends with a topic sentence that identifies its focus. **Supporting sentences** then give details that support the paragraph’s main idea.

• **Conclusion.** The conclusion is the last paragraph of the essay. It usually begins with the **rephrased thesis,** which summarizes the main idea of the essay. It finishes with the writer’s **final thoughts** about the topic. Final thoughts reflect on what the writer has said in the essay and often leave the reader with something to think about.

Journal

Choose one of your answers and write a journal entry.

Vocabulary

For more practice with vocabulary, go to pages 174–175.
Read the model essay. Then label the paragraphs introduction, body paragraph, or conclusion.

MODEL

The Benefits of Smart Phones

Modern society has triggered the development of many new technological devices. Today, people are busier than ever before. Consequently, the trend is to develop devices that help people do many tasks at once. Smart phones can do this. A smart phone is a small handheld device that incorporates many useful features such as an electronic calendar, e-mail access, and even cell-phone capabilities. Smart phones help people organize their lives and make certain tasks more convenient.

Smart phones store and organize information very easily and efficiently. They allow you to write directly on the screen so you don’t have to type in the information. You can also perform a number of useful tasks with these phones. One of their best features is the electronic address book, which can store hundreds of addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Smart phones also have a calendar that you can use to save important dates such as birthdays and anniversaries. Finally, smart phones have an appointment reminder, which tells you of upcoming appointments so you don’t forget about them.

Smart phones are very convenient. Because they are so small, you can take them anywhere you go. Many smart phones can connect to the Internet, so you can browse the Web, send e-mails, or chat with friends from any location without carrying around a big bulky computer. Smart phones are also convenient for students and businesspeople, who can use them to take notes electronically during lectures or business meetings.

Without a doubt, smart phones can make people’s lives easier. People are sometimes reluctant to try newer technology, but those who decide to buy these revolutionary devices will not be disappointed. They offer an extensive number of features in one easy-to-use gadget, and they will continue to get even better as technology improves.
Organizing the Parts of an Essay

The diagram below shows how the model essay is organized. Notice how the main idea in the thesis statement is supported by the ideas in the topic sentences. The restated thesis summarizes the main idea of the thesis statement in different words.

Thesis Statement
Smart phones help people organize their lives and make certain tasks more convenient.

Topic Sentence
Smart phones store and organize information very easily and efficiently.

Topic Sentence
Smart phones are very convenient.

Restated Thesis
Without a doubt, smart phones can make people’s lives easier.

The thesis statement is the most important sentence of the essay. It is usually the last sentence of the introduction. A thesis statement should identify the topic, focus on one specific point about the topic, and represent a belief, observation, or attitude.

EXAMPLES
The invention of frozen foods has changed the way people eat.
Smart phones have benefited people in many ways.

A thesis statement might list the subtopics of the body paragraphs.

EXAMPLE
Smart phones help people organize their lives and make certain tasks more convenient.

A thesis statement should NOT be a known fact or announce the topic only.

EXAMPLES
Clarence Birdseye invented frozen food in the 1920s.
In this essay, I am going to discuss smart phones.
Practice

Read the pairs of sentences. Check (✔) the sentence that is a thesis statement.

1.  ____ a. This essay is going to be about the invention of the television.
    ____ b. Television benefits people because it is entertaining and informative.

2.  ____ a. Laptop computers can be more expensive than desktop computers, but many people buy them.
    ____ b. There are three main differences between desktop computers and laptop computers.

3.  ____ a. Automobiles have affected society positively.
    ____ b. Most people in America drive an automobile.

4.  ____ a. The Internet has had a positive impact on education, business, and people’s personal lives.
    ____ b. I am going to write about Tim Berners-Lee, the man who invented the World Wide Web.

5.  ____ a. The first digital camera that people could buy appeared in stores in 1991.
    ____ b. Digital cameras are superior to traditional cameras in three ways.

Topic Sentences and Supporting Sentences

The topic sentence is usually the first sentence of a body paragraph. It identifies the main idea of the body paragraph. The topic sentence is followed by supporting sentences. Supporting sentences include specific details that make the idea in the topic sentence more understandable for the reader.

In the second body paragraph of the model essay, notice how the supporting sentences explain the idea of the topic sentence in more detail.
Supporting Sentences

Because they are so small, you can take them anywhere you go.

Many smart phones can connect to the Internet, so you can browse the Web, send e-mails, or chat with friends from any location without carrying around a big bulky computer.

Smart phones are also convenient for students and businesspeople, who can use them to take notes electronically during lectures or business meetings.

Practice

A. Read the thesis statement and the topic sentence. Write another topic sentence that supports the thesis statement. Then write a restated thesis.

1. Thesis statement: The invention of the automobile has greatly benefited people.
   Topic sentence: Cars help people get around town very easily.
   a. Topic sentence: **Automobiles help people save time.**
   b. Restated thesis: **People's lives have improved because of the automobile.**

2. Thesis statement: People use computers in many different ways.
   Topic sentence: Children use computers to play video games and chat with friends.
   a. Topic sentence: __________________________
   b. Restated thesis: __________________________

3. Thesis statement: People have received many benefits from the invention of the radio.
   Topic sentence: Radio stations offer many kinds of music to enjoy.
   a. Topic sentence: __________________________
   b. Restated thesis: __________________________

4. Thesis: The Internet has several important uses.
   Topic sentence: Students can use the Internet to do research for school.
   a. Topic sentence: __________________________
   b. Restated thesis: __________________________
B. Work in pairs or small groups. Write supporting sentences for each body paragraph.

**Television**

**Paragraph 1**  
The television is one of the most popular appliances in people’s homes today. Televisions are so common in America that some people have one for every room, including the kitchen and bathroom. This invention has been around since the 1950s, but its benefits haven’t changed. Thanks to television, people’s lives have improved in different ways.

**Paragraph 2**  
First of all, television helps people stay aware of what is happening in the world.

**Paragraph 3**  
In addition, television provides many educational benefits.

**Paragraph 4**  
The invention of the television has produced important benefits. Today, watching television has become a standard pastime for people all around the world, offering programs to match everyone’s needs, from children to adults. There are many new technological devices out there today, but this is one invention that is here to stay.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

Write an essay. Follow the steps.

**STEP 1** Get ideas.

A. Choose a topic for your essay. Check (√) it.

- Topic 1: Ways a specific technological service or device such as the Internet, computers, cell phones, and so forth, helps people

- Topic 2: How a popular invention in your country is used, for example, at school, at work, and/or at home
B. Brainstorm and list as many ideas about your topic as you can. Try to complete this task in five minutes or less.

C. Circle the ideas you will use in your essay.

**STEP 2 Organize your ideas.**

Write an outline for your essay. Use the ideas from Step 1.

**Thesis statement:**

**Topic sentence:**

**Topic sentence:**

**Restated thesis:**

**STEP 3 Write a rough draft.**

A. Begin the introduction by explaining what the invention is and why it is popular. Finish with a thesis statement.

B. Begin each body paragraph with a topic sentence. Explain the idea in the topic sentence with supporting sentences that give specific details, examples, and explanations.

C. Begin the conclusion with a restated thesis. Finish by stating your opinion about the invention.

**STEP 4 Revise your rough draft.**

Read your essay. Use the Writing Checklist to look for mistakes. Work alone or in pairs.

**Writing Checklist**

☐ Does your introduction have a clear thesis statement that gives the topic and main idea of the essay?

☐ Do your body paragraphs have a clear topic sentence?

☐ Do your body paragraphs support your thesis statement?

☐ Does your conclusion have a restated thesis?

☐ Did you use vocabulary from the unit appropriately in your writing?

☐ Did you use correct essay format (adding a title, indenting paragraphs)?
**STEP 5**  **Edit your writing.**

A. Edit your essay. Use the correction symbols chart on page 173. Correct any mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, spelling, verb tense, or the use of the present perfect.

The *present perfect* is used for the indefinite (non-specific) past.

**EXAMPLE**

**PRESENT PERFECT**

*have become*

Computers *became* common in many American homes.

The *present perfect* also describes an action that started in the past and continues to the present.

**EXAMPLE**

**PRESENT PERFECT**

*have been*

Cell phones *are* popular for many years.

B. Work in pairs. Exchange essays and check each other’s work.

**STEP 6**  **Write a final copy.**

Correct your mistakes. Copy your final essay and give it to your instructor.