

Strategy 5

Add details from your own experiences.

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.**Topics 1-2:**

- try to embarrass
- ran to the
- Three years
- techniques from these
- a web site called
- been watching

Topics 3-4:

- a lot in common
- After starting college
- One day after work
- I went to
- I was carrying
- began again

Topic 1: The importance of TV

Watching TV can have some positive points. In fact, TV once saved my life.

_____ ago, I was watching a basketball game on TV. Suddenly, a message came on the TV screen warning us that a tornado was approaching our town. I

_____ basement and was saved, even though the tornado destroyed the room where I had _____ TV.

Topic 2: Using the Internet

In addition to getting information for traveling, we can use the Internet to get help with personal problems. For example, I was having a problem with my girlfriend's father. Anytime we were around him, he would _____ me by making comments about my hair cut and clothes or asking me personal questions about how I spend my free time. I didn't know how to respond to him, but I couldn't talk to my parents about this because I might give them a bad impression of my girlfriend. Fortunately, I found _____ "Hey, Terra!" At this site, I could get some good advice from a counselor. I also found another site where I could tell my problems to other people my age. Although my girlfriend's father still tries to embarrass me, I've learned some self-esteem _____ Internet sites.

Topic 3: Making new friends

A third technique for starting a friendship is to offer to help someone. I always drive to my part-time job. _____, as I was walking to the parking lot, I noticed one of my co-workers standing at the bus stop. I had met him once and knew his name, but I had not talked to him much. _____ the bus stop and asked him if he would like a ride home. He accepted my offer, and we had a great conversation during the ride and found that we had _____. Soon, we became good friends.

Topic 4: Back

Many people suffer from back pain and spend a lot of time and money at a doctor's office trying to get relief. I learned that there might be solutions to back pain that do not require a doctor; we just need awareness. _____ last September, I hurt my back. During winter break, the pain went away, but it returned when classes _____ . I eventually realized that the cause was the heavy, book-filled backpack that _____ to class every day.

Exercise 2:

- Choose two topics from the list below.
- Write a paragraph for both topics. Include your experience as a detail.

Topics

1. A marriage [arranged by parents / in which young people choose their own partners] is best.
2. _____ is an invention that has had an important effect on people's lives.
3. Global warming has some serious effects on our environment.
4. There are some [advantages / disadvantages] to having children.
5. For people who are unpopular, there are some techniques that they can use to improve their relationships.
6. If a factory is causing a lot of air pollution, it [should / should not] be forced to close, even if it means that some people will lose their job.
7. There are some important steps that we can take to lower the crime rate among teenagers.
8. There are several reasons why _____ is a great web site.
9. A smartphone can be extremely useful.
10. There are some techniques that students can use to improve their grades.
11. Old people should live [with their children / in a nursing home].

12. There are some unusual superstitions.
13. Telling a lie can have some [positive / negative] results.
14. Money does not mean happiness.
15. People who don't get enough sleep tend to make mistakes.
16. There are several ways that a [city / school / _____] can be improved.

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