

Text Structure and the Role of Sentences

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

A sentence can introduce a key concept, refine it, contrast it, or signal a shift. Ask how the sentence functions in the paragraph and the whole text.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Sentence That Changes the Article

The first paragraph of the article praises community gardens for producing vegetables, beautifying vacant lots, and giving neighbors a reason to meet. The details are positive and concrete.

Then the author writes, But a garden that begins with enthusiasm can fail without a plan for water, leadership, and long-term access to land. This sentence shifts the article from celebration to analysis.

The next paragraphs explain three problems: volunteers burn out, water bills rise, and landowners may sell lots after soil has been improved. The author does not use these problems to reject gardens. Instead, she shows why successful gardens require agreements before the first seeds are planted.

The final paragraph returns to the hopeful opening but with a qualification: community gardens thrive when communities plan for ordinary difficulties, not only inspiring opening days.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the passage to answer each question. Choose the best answer and support short responses with evidence.

- Which sentence from the passage BEST supports the inference that The key sentence in paragraph 2 changes the article from praising gardens to explaining conditions for success?
 - The details are positive and concrete.
 - This sentence shifts the article from celebration to analysis.
 - The final paragraph returns to the hopeful opening.
 - Volunteers burn out.
- Which statement BEST expresses the central idea or theme of the passage?
 - The article refines a positive view of community gardens by explaining the planning needed for them to last.
 - Community gardens usually harm neighborhoods.
 - Vacant lots should never be used for gardens.
 - Opening days matter more than long-term plans.



3. What does the word 'qualification' most nearly mean as it is used in the passage?
 - A. a job certificate
 - B. a public celebration
 - C. a limitation or condition added to an idea
 - D. a gardening tool
4. How does the structure or key detail identified in the passage contribute to meaning?
 - A. It shows the author has ended the article.
 - B. It introduces a personal memory.
 - C. It proves the first paragraph was false.
 - D. The word But signals a contrast that prepares readers for complications after the positive opening.
5. Which conclusion is BEST supported by the whole passage?
 - A. The author hides the main idea until the final word.
 - B. The author uses structure to move from simple praise to a more balanced explanation.
 - C. The author lists random facts without connection.
 - D. The author presents only negative evidence.
6. Which choice is the BEST objective summary of the passage?
 - A. The passage shows how one sentence shifts an article about community gardens from praise to a balanced explanation of planning challenges.
 - B. The passage gives instructions for planting tomatoes in vacant lots.
 - C. The passage argues that gardens should not be allowed in cities.
 - D. The passage tells a story about one volunteer leader.
7. Which answer should be rejected because it goes beyond what the passage supports?
 - A. The article refines a positive view of community gardens by explaining the planning needed for them to last.
 - B. The author uses structure to move from simple praise to a more balanced explanation.
 - C. Community gardens usually harm neighborhoods.
 - D. The word But signals a contrast that prepares readers for complications after the positive opening.
8. Which detail would be MOST useful to quote in a written response about the passage?
 - A. The details are positive and concrete.
 - B. The final paragraph returns to the hopeful opening.
 - C. Volunteers burn out.
 - D. This sentence shifts the article from celebration to analysis.



9. In 2-3 sentences, explain how one quoted detail supports the idea that The key sentence in paragraph 2 changes the article from praising gardens to explaining conditions for success..

10. Write a one-sentence analysis of the passage's message or main idea. Then name one detail that supports it.



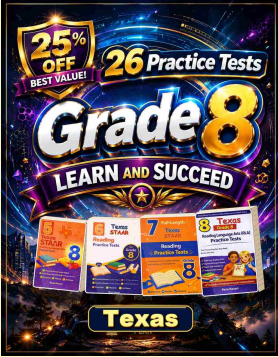
Answer Keys

<p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p>	<p>6 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> <p>10 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Explanations	
1. B	The correct evidence directly proves the stated inference rather than merely mentioning the same topic.
2. A	The correct answer covers the whole passage, while the distractors are too narrow, too extreme, or unsupported.
3. C	The context around the word points to this meaning in this passage.
4. D	The correct answer explains the role the detail plays in the development of the text.
5. B	The correct conclusion follows from multiple details, not from a single isolated word.
6. A	A strong summary includes the main conflict or idea and the outcome without personal opinion.
7. C	This choice overstates or invents an idea that the passage does not prove.
8. D	This detail is specific enough to support analysis in a written response.
9.	Answer: A strong response quotes or closely paraphrases: This sentence shifts the article from celebration to analysis. Then it explains how that detail proves the inference instead of only repeating it. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.
10.	Answer: A strong response states: The article refines a positive view of community gardens by explaining the planning needed for them to last. It supports the statement with a precise detail such as: This sentence shifts the article from celebration to analysis. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.



Want Even More Practice? Check Out Our Other Texas STAAR ELA Test Books!




Texas STAAR Grade 8 ELA Preparation Bundle

26 full-length practice tests across four books (5 + 6 + 7 + 8)

No repeated questions — maximum practice value!

▼ DOWNLOAD INSTANTLY ▼



SCAN ME

Point your phone camera at the code · instant access to all four books

26 Tests!
4 Books
One Bundle

Important: All our test books contain **unique, completely different tests** from each other! Each book offers fresh practice questions — no repeats!

5 Practice Tests	6 Practice Tests	7 Practice Tests	8 Practice Tests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5 complete practice tests with detailed explanations ✓ Perfect foundation for STAAR ELA prep ✓ Builds confidence and test-taking skills ✓ High-quality questions aligned with standards <p>Start your practice journey!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 6 complete practice tests with detailed explanations ✓ Unique tests — different from the 5 tests book ✓ Perfect for more practice after mastering 5 tests ✓ Same high-quality questions aligned with standards <p>Take your practice to the next level!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 7 complete practice tests for deeper preparation ✓ Unique tests — different from 5 and 6 tests books ✓ Builds stamina with full-length practice ✓ Aligned to Grade 8 STAAR ELA standards <p>Maximum preparation power!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 8 complete practice tests — our largest book ✓ Unique tests — different from 5, 6 and 7 books ✓ Great for final review before test day ✓ Builds true test stamina and confidence <p>Be fully prepared!</p>

Get the bundle at [EffortlessMath.com](https://www.EffortlessMath.com) — scan the QR code above to open the product page.

