

Highlight or underline the topic sentence in each paragraph:

1. I recently read an article called So Many Englishes by Paul Roberts, in which he argues for the "abolition of the native speaker assistant or the abolition of the native speaker teacher." He bases this on the idea that "Paradoxically, perversely, even, it makes a lot more sense for a class of Milanese or Parisian or Berliner students to have, for example, a Russian, Chinese or Brazilian English teacher." This is justified on the rather flimsy grounds that they are more expert at international communication in English.
2. When learning new words and expressions, it is important to take note of whether these words and expressions are used in an informal context or a formal context. Many words and expressions are used both formally and informally. If you aren't sure of exactly how to use a new word or expression, you can try them out with work colleagues and friends. Find people to converse with. They may not be instructive in any way, but you can try out new ways to express yourself. You should also listen as closely as possible when you converse. Listen for anything that sounds different, new, or unfamiliar. If the circumstance permits, don't be afraid to take out your pocket notebook and write it down. If you say something that isn't quite right, the person you are speaking with might take note of it and let you know. If you aren't sure of something you said or would like to say, then ask about it. If you hear something and you don't know what it means, ask about that as well.
3. More than two million children sat the tests, which include reading, writing, spelling and handwriting as part of an overall examination of English language skills. The results seem to be somewhat disheartening as apparently fewer than half of our children can spell words such as "effortless" and "participate" says the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

(QCA).

4. The concept of abnormality changes with knowledge and the prevailing social attitudes, therefore it is difficult to define an individuals' mental state or behaviour as abnormal. The term Abnormal is defined in the 1985 edition of The Penguin Dictionary of Psychology as "Any departure from the norm or the normal". It also defines Normal as "Conforming to that which is characteristic and representative of a group; not deviating markedly from the average or the typical.". Legally, normality is largely defined as the ability to distinguish between right & wrong, and to control their own behaviour (Roediger et al., p533).

5. It seems clear that there must be some form of universal language with which we can communicate mental states and problems to each other accurately and without misunderstanding. The need to diagnose problems implies the need for some form of labelling and grouping of symptoms. The labels used to describe abnormal mental behaviour up to now have often had negative overtones. A labelling system which is both impartial and accurate must surely be of utmost importance. However, there is always the possibility that any labelling of mental disorders will develop a negative tone due many people's fear, or lack of understanding, of these conditions and their implications for an individual. It could therefore be that the problem of labelling is surpassed by the problem of how we act towards them.