

**3 Reading topic sentences**

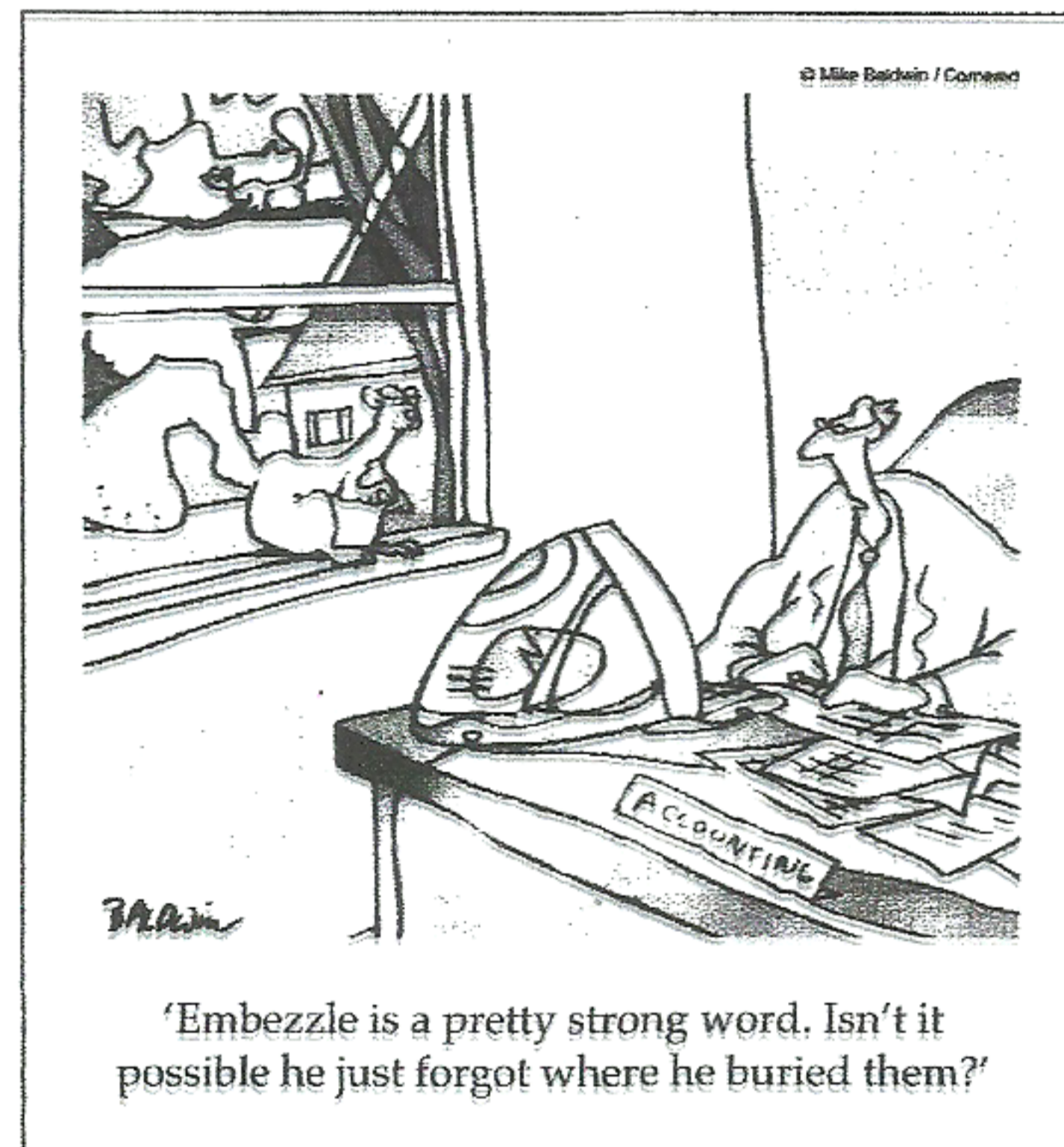
In this text, the first sentence of each paragraph is missing. Read it, then choose the appropriate topic sentence for each paragraph from the sentences below (A–F). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

**What to look for in a forensic accountant**

by Thomas Levanti

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ A forensic accountant reviews evidence, conducts analyses, interviews involved parties and draws conclusions. Forensic accountants are usually retained after an alleged fraud has taken place to assess the extent of a fraud and to bring those responsible to justice. Forensic accountants are frequently called upon to provide expert testimony on fraud and accounting-related matters. Forensic accountants can also be used to set up proactive fraud-prevention programs.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Al Capone, one of the most famous gangsters of the 20th century, was prosecuted for tax evasion with the use of a forensic accountant by the Internal Revenue Service. Today, forensic accountants in their expanded role can be relied on to work on all types of cases where having knowledge of accounting principles and investigations has been applied to some of the biggest cases ever, including terrorism and corporate fraud cases, especially in light of 9/11 and Enron. A forensic accountant possesses the knowledge and expertise to interpret financial statements or to work under circumstances where financial information has been destroyed or tampered with, necessitating the recreation of information to determine if inappropriate actions have taken place.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Many accounting firms, both large and small, have developed forensic accounting practices that serve a wide variety of litigation and investigative needs. Many private investigation firms have forensic accountants on staff. Governmental entities, such as the IRS, Federal Bureau of Investigation and state and local police departments, employ forensic accountants to address law-enforcement needs. Likewise, many large corporations employ forensic accountants to address legal and fraud-related issues internally.

- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ The cost of each alternative must be considered carefully, relative to the loss. The duration of the engagement must be factored into the equation as well, to address the cost-benefit considerations.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Many professional organizations commingle\* forensic accounting along with other titles and specialties involving fraud, auditing, and general accounting. When one chooses a forensic accountant, many considerations must go into selecting the right person for the job. In many cases, experience makes the difference between a good and bad outcome. Unfortunately, forensic accounting currently lacks the standardized methodologies and standardized practices found in many other professions.



**TIP**

The first sentence in a paragraph is often referred to as the 'topic sentence'. It usually introduces the main topic of that particular paragraph. When reading lengthy texts in Parts 5 and 6 of the Test of Reading, use the topic sentences to help you find the information you need more quickly.

\* associate with

- A Where can one find a forensic accountant?
- B Forensic accountants can trace their roots back to America's Prohibition days.
- C The field of forensic accounting has been around for a while, using other names, such as "financial investigations;" however, only a few professional certifications address forensic accounting specifically.
- D Forensic accountants are often requested to attend court proceedings.
- E Making the choice of what type and what size of firm to hire requires many considerations.
- F A forensic accountant is indeed part investigator, part auditor, part attorney and part accountant.