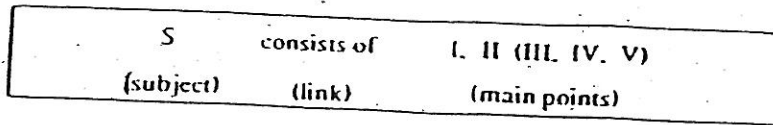


# Developing a Thesis Statement



Here's an example:

S  
Three characteristics of a good business letter are conciseness.  
I  
II III  
clarity, and courtesy.

## Exercise

In each of the following thesis statements, underline the subject with a wavy line, circle the link, and underline the main points with a straight line.

1. There are four kinds of drivers who cause accidents on expressways: road hogs, tailgaters, speed demons, and Sunday drivers.
2. Cigarette smoking is a habit to be avoided at all costs, for it detracts from appearance, diminishes finances, and threatens health.
3. The five steps for reading assigned material efficiently consist of previewing chapter headings, reading the assignment carefully, taking careful notes, looking up unfamiliar terms, and reviewing the material thoroughly.
4. Einstein's General Theory of Relativity fundamentally changed the way we think about the nature of matter, the extent of the cosmos, and the fate of the universe.
5. Because owning and maintaining a home involves considerable amounts of money, time, and work, one should carefully consider the decision to buy a house.
6. The principles of dealing with handicapped children include accepting their limitations, understanding their development, allowing them to take some risks, and encouraging them to develop to their fullest potential.
7. In British aristocracy, the five ranks of peer, or title holder in the peerage, are, in ascending order, barons, viscounts, earls, marquises, and dukes.
8. It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have these three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them. [Mark Twain]
9. Getting the job you want requires that you prepare a flawless resumé, research the firm you are interested in, respond intelligently at the interview, and follow up the interview in an appropriate manner.
10. The most prevalent types of crime fiction are detective stories, in which particular private eyes take part; "whodunits," in which a criminal is identified; mystery stories, in which supernatural elements may intervene; and puzzle mysteries, in which clues, not characters, are all-important.