

- 1 Read the introduction to the essay in Unit 8, exercise 1 on page 57. Complete this diagram.

**General ideas:**

*Most Americans would probably say that their language comes from England.*

.....  
 .....

**Specific idea (Thesis statement):**

.....  
 .....

2 How to write a strong introduction

A strong introduction ...

- introduces the topic clearly.
- gives several sentences of information about the topic.
- states the thesis (the main idea) of the essay.

Any of the following will make an introduction weak:

- It doesn't give enough information about the topic or gives too much information about it.
- It talks about too many different topics.
- It does not state a clear thesis.

- 2 Read and discuss the following introductions with a partner. Mark the strong introductions with a tick (✓). Mark the weak introductions with a cross (X). What could the writers do to make the weak introductions strong?

a.

*Family structure has changed a lot in the last fifty years in Asia. The decrease in the number of extended families and nuclear families has caused several social changes.*

b.

*The number of businesses using the Internet for selling products has increased greatly in recent years. Shoppers, too, are using the Internet in greater numbers to buy all types of products, such as books, cameras, and clothing. Although e-business has become popular, there are certain risks involved in Internet shopping that are a concern for both businesses and consumers.*

c.

*Stargazing—looking at the stars—is something everyone should try. I love it. When looking at the night sky, most people observe that the moon, planets, and stars move from the east side of the sky to the west over a period of several hours. In fact, this movement is actually the movement of the Earth rotating on its axis. In addition, as the Earth revolves around the sun throughout the year, different stars are visible at different times.*



d.

The origins of Irish music can be traced back nearly 2,000 years to the time when the Celts arrived in Ireland. Music thrived under the rule of the Chieftans, but later declined during the British colonisation of Ireland. However, during the Great Famine of the 1840s, thousands of Irish people emigrated to North America in search of a better life, taking their music with them. Irish music soon became established in American cities with a high proportion of Irish immigrants, such as Chicago and Boston. These cities are popular tourist destinations with many interesting sights. However, Irish music really became known to a wider audience in the 1970s, when musicians experimented with more modern arrangements of traditional songs and fusion with rock, world music and jazz. Jazz originated in the American South in the early twentieth century. Now, in the twenty-first century, Irish music is more popular and successful than ever.

e.

*Adjusting to another culture's food can be a challenge for many travellers. The geography of a country can greatly affect the typical foods that are eaten by its people.*