

Name: _____

Date: _____

Subject: Reading Comprehension
Topic: Main Idea and Supporting Details



The main idea of a paragraph is what all the sentences are about. Read the paragraph and ask "What's your point?" That will help you zero in on the main idea.

(A) Read each paragraph carefully. Choose the best answer to the questions that follow.

1. Juan loves to play games. His favorite game is chess because it requires a great deal of thought. Juan also likes to play less demanding board games that are based mostly on luck. He prefers Monopoly because it requires luck and skill. If he's alone, Juan likes to play action video games as long as they aren't too violent.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- (a) Juan dislikes violence
- (b) Juan likes to think
- (c) Juan enjoys Monopoly
- (d) Juan enjoys playing games.

2. Maria is watching too much television. A toddler shouldn't be spending hours staring blankly at a screen. Worse yet, some of her wild behavior has been inspired by those awful cartoons she watches. We need to spend more time reading books with her and pull the plug on the TV!

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- (a) Watching a lot of television isn't good for Maria.
- (b) Books are good.
- (c) All cartoons are bad.
- (d) Some cartoons are bad for Maria.

3. Someday we will all have robots that will be our personal servants. They will look and behave much like real humans. We will be able to talk to these mechanical helpers and they will be able to respond in kind. Amazingly, the robots of the future will be able to learn from experience. They will be smart, strong, and untiring workers whose only goal will be to make our lives easier.

Which sentence from the paragraph expresses the main idea?

- (a) Someday we will all have robots that will be our personal servants.
- (b) We will be able to talk to these mechanical helpers and they will be able to respond in kind.
- (c) They will look and behave much like real humans.
- (d) Amazingly, the robots of the future will be able to learn from experience.

4. Floods can cause tremendous damage. They can ruin houses, roads and buildings. Floods can take down trees and cause mudslides. It often leaves mud, sand and debris behind. It can take months to clean up after a flood

What is the main idea of the paragraph?

- (a) Floods cause mudslides.
- (b) Floods can cause a lot of damage.
- (c) Floods damage houses and roads.
- (d) Flood damage may take months to clean up

(B) Each paragraph contains one sentence that does not support the main idea. Write that sentence.

5. Another unusual thing about Travis is his eating philosophy. He believes that there is no such thing as a breakfast food, lunch food, or supper food. He'll eat tuna sandwiches for breakfast if the mood strikes. He often eats pancakes for lunch. He frequently goes to the movies in his pajamas before supper. When it's finally time to go to bed, Travis will have a big bowl of Cheerios.

6. Francine was certainly not as popular with her teachers as she was with her peers. She knew that she had earned her back seat in their hearts. She laughed out loud when Mr. Ami made his most serious statements in social studies class. She wrote mean little poems about Miss Baker, the soccer coach, and taped them on hallway walls. Her favorite subject was math. Every day, in every class, Francine would ask, "When can we go home?"

7. Albert is a collector. He has an extensive stamp collection. His toe nail clipping collection is the topic of much discussion. The vacuum bag collection that decorates his bedroom walls is one of a kind. Albert loves to vacuum the house for his parents. He has a rock collection, a comic book collection, and even a used staples collection. It's no wonder that Albert's friends call him "Mr. Collector."

8. Please write back soon. I want to know how you're doing in school. How are your parents? Do you have many new friends? I have a new bike. Tell me if your new house is as nice as your old one. Are you still sad about moving? And of course, I want to know if you miss me just a little bit.