

READING STRATEGIES 1

FINDING THE MAIN IDEA



When you have a very long sentence which is difficult to comprehend, it helps to look at the whole sentence and figure out the main idea. Read the sentences and decide what the main idea is. Choose A, B or C.

1. Although I was given a host of new ideas, I rejected them as they either required a substantial drop in salary or considerable retraining.
 - A. The suggestions involved less pay and more schooling so were unacceptable to me.
 - B. I don't want to hear any new ways of changing my career.
 - C. A lower salary or learning new skills are good ideas.
2. The Welsh gold industry has gone into steep decline since its height in the late 1880s, when thousands were employed in hundreds of mines dotted around the countryside.
 - A. The gold industry in Wales has boomed in the last hundred years.
 - B. There was more gold mining in Wales in the 19th century.
 - C. Gold prices have decreased since the 1880s.
3. And while most schools are equipped to deal with children who are especially able in academic subjects, the musically gifted required special understanding, which may not always be available in an ordinary school - especially one where music is regarded as a secondary activity.
 - A. It is difficult for students with musical talent to find support in school.
 - B. Most schools offer extensive music programs for students who need them.
 - C. The problem is that schools only offer academic subjects and not music courses.

4. Along with simple, but expert, guidance on all aspects of basic and more advanced cookery, Delia mixes her advice with hundreds of superb recipes that are anything but boring.

- A. Delia offers good advice and interesting recipes.
- B. Delia offers simple but boring cooking advice.
- C. Delia helps you through very difficult recipes.

5. While *Le Cordon Bleu* has always carried the flag for traditional French cooking, it has also moved away from rich, creamy sauces and altered its approach to cut down on the killer calories.

- A. *Le Cordon Bleu* promotes traditional yet light foods.
- B. *Le Cordon Bleu*'s creamy sauces have been an important part of its tradition.
- C. *Le Cordon Bleu* promotes classic food that is healthy.

6. But the Championships are different because there's only one chance and you have to be ready to make the most of it.

- A. The writer is completely ready for the Championships.
- B. Prepare for the Championships since they are a rare opportunity.
- C. You have to be ready to play several Championship games.

