

Main Idea & Context Clues

The **Main idea** of a text is the central point the author is trying to convey.

Context clues are hints within a text that help readers understand the meanings of unfamiliar words.

Main Idea: Read each of the paragraphs below and determine the main idea.

1. On Saturday, Mary went for a hike in the woods near her house. She packed a lunch and put it in her backpack. She wore a hat. She followed the trail through the woods all the way to where it ended at the river. There, she sat down and ate her sandwich.

The Main idea is:

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Mary wore a hat | c. Mary ate a sandwich |
| b. Mary went for a hike | d. Mary walked to the river |

2. Mittens was the tiniest kitten in the litter. While the other kittens seemed to grow a lot every day, Mitten stayed tiny. She could easily get under furniture where the other cats didn't fit, and she often went missing. She was so little that sometimes her human would scoop her up and put her in a coffee mug!

The Main idea is:

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. Mittens is tiny | c. Mittens likes to hide |
| b. Mittens is a kitten | d. Mittens fits into a coffee mug |

Directions: Use the context clues or words that surround the bold word in each sentence to find the meaning.

1. This is an excellent chocolate cake, if you would like to **indulge**.
a. Give in to b. Refuse c. Ignore
2. I have an **insatiable** appetite for sweets. I'll have cake!
a. Little b. Endless c. Surprising
3. Don't eat too much of it; the liqueur in the frosting is **potent**.
a. Strong b. Weak c. Indifferent
4. I ate too much cake at the party. **Subsequently**, I got sick.
a. Before b. During c. After
5. It is **unprecedented** for cake to no longer have any appeal to me.
a. Predictable b. Previously unknown c. Expected
6. I feel a great **solidarity** with any who loves cake.
a. Respect b. bond c. dislike