

3 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

READING SKILL Find the main idea

The main idea is the most important thought in a piece of writing. It is the topic plus what the writer wants to say about the topic. Sometimes the main idea is stated at the beginning of a text but it may also appear elsewhere in the text. When you read, ask yourself: "What is the text about?" and then, "What does the writer want to tell me about the topic?"

 A Read the Reading Skill. Answer the questions.

1. Read the letter. Underline the sentence that tells you the main idea.
2. Which statement best describes the main idea?
 - a. People should be open to opinions and advice from others.
 - b. Only listen to advice from people you trust and get along with.
 - c. There are many different ways to give good advice.

 B Read the letter again. Circle the correct answers.

1. Elena wrote this letter to the editor to ____.
 - a. show people that she is smart
 - b. sell more of her bags
 - c. share some helpful advice
2. This bag was very important to Elena because ____.
 - a. she was excited that her co-workers liked the design
 - b. she believed that this was her best idea as a designer
 - c. she wanted to show that she was a good designer
3. Lin's suggestion made the bag ____ and easier to sell.
 - a. more elegant
 - b. useful to more people
 - c. cheaper to make
4. Her teacher's advice helped Elena because ____.
 - a. it made her more open to other people's ideas
 - b. it made her feel bad about her own design
 - c. it made her feel better about her own ideas

 C **FOCUS ON LANGUAGE** Reread lines 10-11 in the letter. Think about the phrases *after dark* and *huge seller*. Circle the correct answers.

1. The expression *after dark* means **without lights** / **at night** / **in black clothes**.
2. The phrase *huge seller* means **sold in big sizes** / **sold in large numbers** / **sold at low prices**