

The **main idea** is the **most important** idea of a text.

▶ The main idea sometimes is implied.

Key details are sentences that provide more information to **support** the main idea.

Main idea implied is:

Advertising influences our lives every day.

Brand names are very familiar household words. Throughout the day, we eat the foods and use the products promoted by advertisers. Ads have made the **cars we drive signs of our success**. It is amazing to see how people turn their heads when they see someone driving an expensive car. Our choice of **entertainment is also swayed by ads**. Just take a look at the long lines that form when a blockbuster movie is advertised.

CFU

Which sentence could be a key detail of support for the main idea **Advertising influences our lives every day**? How do you know?

- A** The ad stated that, if you buy one dress, you get the 2nd one for less money.
- B** We choose the dresses and colors we wear that are endorsed by ads.

In your own words, what is the main idea?

1. Read the text.
2. Discern the main idea. (answer)
3. Identify the key details that support the main idea. (underline)

¹Factory workers in early American factories were not paid very much. ²Some of them only earned a few pennies an hour. ³Many workers worked in jobs that were very dangerous and unsafe. ⁴For example, the workers on power machines risked accidents that could maim or kill them. ⁵Factory workers in early America worked very long hours. ⁶For the most part, workers had to work an average of 12 hours a day.

- 1 What is the main idea of the paragraph?
 - A Workers in early American factories worked long hours.
 - B Workers in early American factories experienced many difficulties.
 - C Workers in early American factories were very poor.
- 2 Which additional detail would support the main idea?
 - A Many factory workers in the textile mills were female.
 - B The first factories were built in the 1700s.
 - C Factory workers started working at a very early age.

¹Some people scream when talking on their cellphones. ²Many times, one can hear very private conversations because people are yelling. ³Other people never identify themselves; they just start talking. ⁴Sometimes, we are just guessing who is on the cellphone because all they say is 'hi there.' ⁵On many occasions, people are very distracted and not paying attention when using their cellphones. ⁶Once in a while, we have to walk out of the way to avoid being bumped by people on their phones.

- 3 What is the main idea of the paragraph?
 - A Some people behave poorly when using their cellphones.
 - B It is very important to pay attention when we are using our cellphones.
 - C Cellphones are very popular.
- 4 Which additional detail would support the main idea?
 - A They use their cellphones in an emergency.
 - B They are always on their cellphones and do not even talk to the people around them.
 - C They have to save a lot of money to pay for their cellphones.

Skill Closure

1. Read the text.
2. Discern the main idea. (answer)
3. Identify the key details that support the main idea. (underline)

Floods

A flood is an overflow of water that covers land that usually is dry. Floods can ruin bridges. When a bridge is destroyed during a flood, it can create a lot of traffic bottlenecks. Floods can take down trees. When trees fall, they can injure people and knock over electricity poles. Floods leave a lot of mud and sand behind. It can take months to clean up after a flood.

- 1 What is the main idea of the paragraph?
 - A Floods can be very destructive.
 - B Flood happen where there is a lot of rain.
 - C Not all floods cause so much damage.
- 2 Which additional detail supports the main idea?
 - A Floods happen all over the world.
 - B Extreme flooding can also be caused by a tsunami.
 - C A flood can sweep away anything in its path, such as cars or personal belongings.

Concept Closure



Write a paragraph with at least three sentences. The main idea is written for you. Then, read your paragraph to your partner.

Owning a bicycle has many benefits.

Closure

What did you learn today about discerning the main idea?

Word Bank

discern
main idea
key details
support

Read the text. Answer the questions,

Amazing Fruits

Fruits are made up of skin, fruit, and seeds. The fruit portion protects the seed or seeds inside it. It usually keeps birds and other animals from eating the seeds even if they eat the outer part of the fruit. Fruit also serves as a covering that shields the seeds in very cold weather. The temperature may drop, but the seeds inside will not be damaged. In addition, a rotting fruit provides extra food for a new plant when it begins to grow.

1 What is the main idea of the text?

- A Fruits are very helpful to plants.
- B Fruits are eaten by birds and insects.
- C Fruits keep seeds inside even when it is cold outside.

2 Which additional detail supports the main idea?

- A Fruits are enjoyed by many people.
- B Fruits are used in fruit salads and many other desserts.
- C When eaten by animals, fruits help the plant spread its seeds to other areas.



Listening

Answer questions about the text you just listened to.

1 What is the main idea of the text?

- A Animals communicate with each other in many ways.
- B Insects communicate with each other in many ways.
- C Some insects *dance* to communicate with each other.

2 Which is a detail from the text that supports the main idea?

- A Female fireflies attract male fireflies.
- B Fireflies use the light they produce for communication.
- C Fireflies are very entertaining insects.

3 What sentence can be added to support the main idea?

- A Many scientists study how insects communicate.
- B Grasshoppers communicate by flapping their wings.
- C Humans use language to communicate.

Listen the passage. What is the passage about? (write and read)



Write the main idea for this paragraph.
Underline the key details.

Griselda's parents just bought a beautiful, patterned carpet for the family room. She can no longer wear her shoes when she enters that room. Eating or drinking anything there is also not allowed. Her parents are afraid that she will ruin the carpet. Griselda cannot play with Paco, her furry dog, in the family room. Paco leaves too much hair behind.

**Reading**

Read the passage. Complete the passage using the word bank.

for household use

much recreation

control water

made out of cement

People build dams to _____ . We need to make sure the right amount of water is at the right place at the right time. Dams also supply water for _____ . We wouldn't be able to survive, clean, or cook without water. Dams also offer _____ . People enjoy swimming and fishing in the lake behind dams.



Write the main idea for the paragraph above.
