

Worksheet

Reading for Main Idea Exercises

Directions: Read and find the main ideas of all these short passages

1. After the hurricane, there was no water and not much food on the island. It is still very bad. Many people no longer have homes and living in schools. Others are in hospitals. We need help from other countries.

- A. The writer wants to help for his family.
- B. The writer wants to help for his country.
- C. The writer wants some food for his country.

2. John never has any money. He has a good salary, but he's always borrowing money, "Where does it go?" asks his mother. "Don't ask me, says John, "All I do is buy clothes, go to the theater and eat in the restaurants."

- A. John eats in restaurants.
- B. John's mother buys clothes with his money.
- C. John uses all his money and doesn't save.

3. Erika liked the blue dress and wanted to buy it. "How much is it?" She asked. "Twenty ninety-five," said the clerk. "Oh, I don't have that much money," said Erika. "You can charge it," answered the clerk.

- A. The dress was twenty ninety-five.
- B. Erika liked the dress and wanted to buy it.
- C. Erika didn't have the money.

4. Mr. James has a financial problem. He tries to pay his bills every month. This month he paid the rent, the gas company, and the department stores. He didn't pay his electricity bill. Now Mr. James can't even watch television!

- A. Mr. James doesn't have television
- B. Mr. James doesn't have gas.
- C. Mr. James doesn't have electricity.

5. Bicycles are very popular today in many countries. Many people use bicycles for exercise. But exercise is only one of the reasons why bicycle are popular. Another reason is money. Bicycles are not expensive to buy. They do not need gas to make them go. They also are easy and cheap to fix. In cities, many people like bicycles better than cars. With a bicycle, they never have to wait in traffic. They also do not have to find a place to park. And finally, bicycles do not cause any pollution!

- A. Bicycles are better than cars.
- B. Bicycles do not cause the pollution.
- C. Bicycles are popular today for many people.

6. Louise called Mark on Saturday morning. "What are you doing tonight?" she asked. Mark said, "Tom asked me to go to a baseball game with him. Do you want to come with us, too? He can bring his friend, Jack." "OK," said Louise. "I like Jack."

- A. The four friends are going to a baseball game.
- B. The two friends are going to a baseball game.
- C. Tom and Mark are going to a baseball game.

7. Eric went to a movie and enjoyed it very much. It was the story of a family with 17 children. The family sang and danced. After the movie, Eric said to his mother, "That was good. Why don't you go to see it, too?"

- A. Eric saw a movie with 17 children.
- B. Eric told his mother to see the movie.
- C. Eric saw an entertaining movie yesterday.

8. "The prices are very high in this restaurant," said Evelyn to her friend. "Don't think about the price," said Edwin. "I want you to enjoy your meal. Order anything you want from the menu. My salary is higher now, and I have a lot of money for our dinner."

- A. Evelyn and Edwin are eating in a restaurant with high prices.
- B. Evelyn can order anything she wants from the menu.
- C. Edwin has a higher salary now.

9. Jenny worked late four days, and her boss wanted to thank her. He paid her more money and took her to dinner at a nice restaurant. "You're a good secretary, Jenny," he said. "Thank you for your help."

- A. The boss paid Jenny extra money.
- B. The boss wanted to thank Jenny for her help.
- C. The boss took Jenny to dinner.

10. Juan loves to play games. His favorite game is chess because it requires a great deal of thoughts. 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 very much

- A. Juan dislikes violence.
- B. Juan likes to think.
- C. Juan enjoys Monopoly.

Worksheet 4

Main Idea Exercise

Read the paragraph and find the topic, then look for the main idea.

1. *The movie Apollo 13 was a blockbuster for the summer of 1995. It is an exciting story about space exploration. In the movie, the astronauts get in trouble while they are trying to return to Earth. People in the audience are on the edge of their seats waiting to see what happens. What makes it even more exciting is that it is a true story.*

- the main idea is in the first sentence:

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2. *Most teenagers and young adults do not know what they want to do for the rest of their lives. It is a big decision. There are a number of things you can do to narrow the choices. For example you can take an interest test, do some research on your own about a career, try volunteer work in the field in which you are interested, or "job-shadow", in which you spend a day with a person who is working in a field that interests you. These are just a few helpful ideas as you begin to choose a career.*

- the main idea is

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3. *The United States seems to be in love with the idea of going out to eat. Because of this, a real variety of restaurants has come about specializing in all kinds of foods. McDonald's is the king of a subgroup of restaurants called fast-food restaurants. Chances are, no matter where you live, there is a McDonald's restaurant near you. There are even McDonald's in the Soviet Union. Now McDonald's is trying something new. It is called McDonald's Express and there is a test site in Peabody, Massachusetts. It is part of a Mobil gas station. This allows you to fill up with gas and fill up on food at the same time. What will they think of next?*

- the main idea is

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4. *The rules of conduct during an examination are clear. No books, calculators or papers are allowed in the test room. Proctors will not allow anyone with such items to take the test. Anyone caught cheating will be asked to leave the room. His or her test sheet will be taken. The incident will be reported to the proper authority. At the end of the test period, all materials will be returned to the proctor. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a failing grade for this test.*

- the main idea is
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5. *A baby elephant is the biggest of all land babies. A newborn baby weighs more than two hundred pounds. It is about three feet high. The new baby is strong, too. Almost as soon as it is born, it can walk about.*

- the main idea is
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6. *Keep your tree outdoors until the day before Christmas. Never use lighted candles. There are also other suggestions for avoiding a Christmas tree fire. Turn off the lights before you leave the house and throw away the tree by New Year's Day.*

- the main idea is
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7. *Most people are free to enjoy themselves in the evenings and on weekends. Some spend their time watching television, listening to the radio, or going to movies; others participate in sports. It depends on their interests. There are various ways to spend one's free time.*

- the main idea is
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