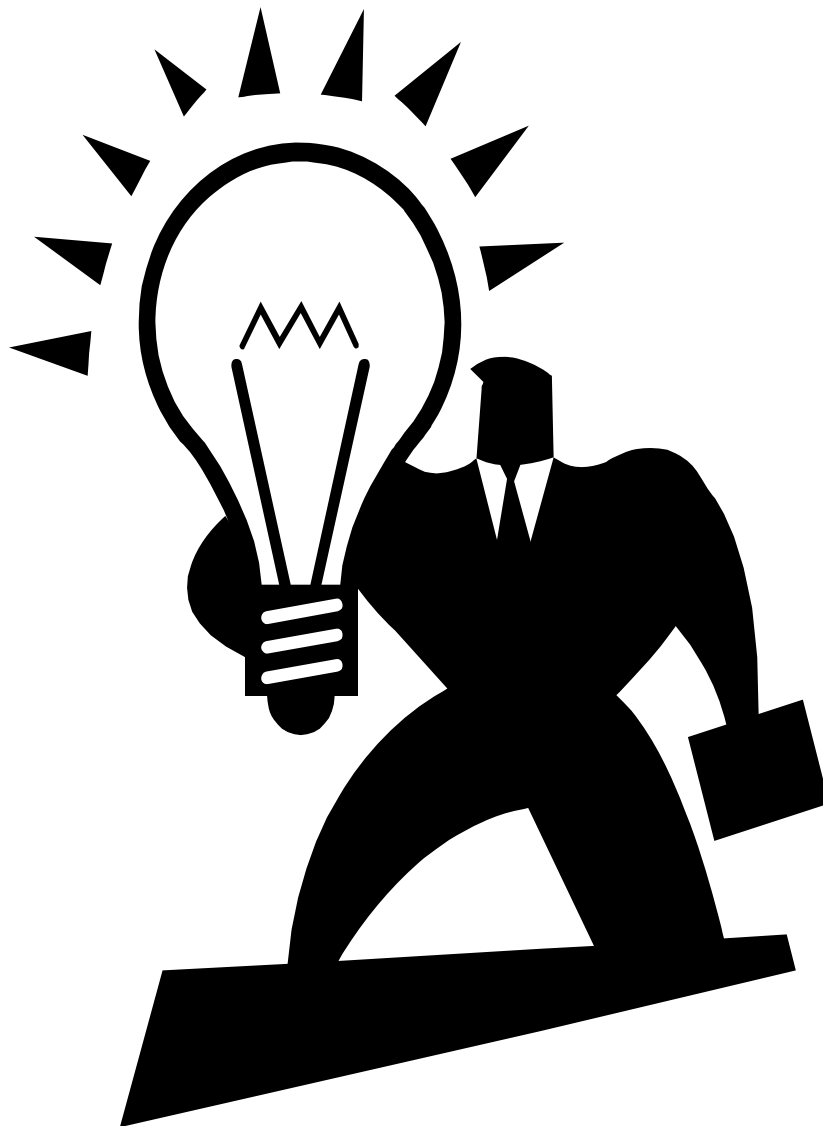


English

Getting the Main Idea





To the Learners

Dear Learner,

How are you today?

In your previous modules you have read paragraphs and stories. In this module you will be learning about getting the main idea of a paragraph.

Are you ready?



Let's Learn This

This module will help you recognize the main idea in a paragraph. The main idea is the important idea, or main point, in a sentence, paragraph or story.



Let's Try This

Read the paragraphs and answer the questions that follow by encircling the letter of the correct answers.

Have you seen the aristocrats of the woodlands? These are the orchids – the most interesting and beautiful of all the flowers. All the 12,000 known species resemble each other; but some look like ladies' slippers. These exciting tropical blooms may be white, yellow, purple, pink, green, or brown... very appropriate for corsages.

There are two classes of orchids– the **terrestrial** that takes their food from the ground, and the **epiphytal** that gets food from the air. The latter attaches themselves to the bark of trees and depends upon

the moist, humid atmosphere for water. Epiphytals are not parasites because they do not take anything from the tree itself.

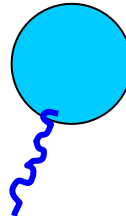
Orchids are propagated by division of the rhizome, stem cuttings, and by seeds. One variety of climbing orchid produces a long pod that is dark brown when ripe. Vanilla is extracted from this plant.

1. What is the whole selection about?
 - a. aristocrats
 - b. orchids
 - c. flowers
 - d. woodlands
2. Which words are used to describe orchids?
 - a. ladies' slippers
 - b. butterfly shapes
 - c. interesting and beautiful
 - d. parasitic blooms
3. Terrestrial orchids take their food
 - a. from the air
 - b. from the water
 - c. from the trees
 - d. from the ground
4. Orchids that attach themselves to the bark of trees are
 - a. epiphytal
 - b. parasites
 - c. terrestrial
 - d. saprophytes
5. The selection doesn't tell us that orchids are propagated by
 - a. seed
 - b. stem cutting
 - c. rhizomes
 - d. budding

* Were your answers like these? (b, c, d, a, d)

* Write your score inside the big balloon.

* Let's continue.





Let's Study This

Read the paragraph.

Natural calamities like typhoon, flood and landslides pose a great damage to the people all over the country. It has posed a big problem to the education sector in terms of damaged school properties, disruption of normal teaching – learning activities. Most of all, it has caused loss of innocent lives of school children.

This paragraph tells about natural calamities.

The sentence: Natural calamities like typhoon, flood and landslides pose a great damage to the people all over the country, tells what the paragraph is all about.

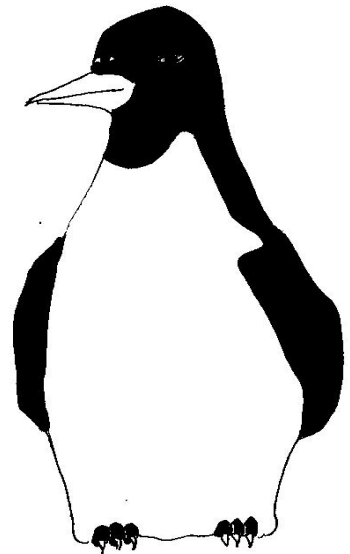
It is the key sentence. A key sentence gives the main idea of the paragraph.

The main idea in a paragraph or selection is the central idea or the most important thought. This main idea is often found in the first sentence of the paragraph. Sometimes, it is found at the end or in other sentences in the paragraph. The sentence where this main idea is found is called the topic sentence.

Let's take a look at this example:

Direction: Read the information about penguins.

People are amused by the funny, duck-like waddle of penguins and by their appearance because they seem to be wearing little tuxedos. Penguins are among the best-liked animals on Earth, but are also a most misunderstood animal. People may have more wrong ideas about penguins than any other animal.



For example, many people are surprised to learn that penguins are really birds, not mammals. Penguins do not fly, but they do have feathers, and only birds have feathers. Also, like other birds; penguins build nests and their young hatch from eggs. Because of their unusual looks, though, you never confuse them with any other bird!

Penguins are also thought of as symbols of the polar region, but penguins do not live north of the equator, so you would not find a penguin on the North Pole. Penguins don't live at the South Pole, either. Only two of the seventeen **species** of penguins spend all of their lives on the frozen continent of Antarctica. You would be just as likely to see a penguin living on an island in a warm climate as in a cold area.

What is the paragraph all about?

It is about penguins.

Where is the key sentence of the main idea?

Is it in the beginning, middle or the end?

The sentence: Penguins are among the best – liked animals on Earth, but are also a most misunderstood animal., is the key sentence.

It is found at the middle of the paragraph.



Let's Do This

Read the paragraph and answer the questions.

KITE FLYING

In Japan kite flying is celebrated every fourth day of May. Kites shaped like carp are flown by the boys in every household. It is believed that kite flying makes the boys persistent and successful in any worthwhile activity. The carp, which is like a kite fish, is the symbol of patience and perseverance. This fish tries to swim against strong currents although it is small.



In India the kites look like shields, while in Australia they look like boats. In Brazil, the kite is shaped like a falcon which is a small eagle (lawin). Here in the Philippines kites are shaped like pretty butterflies.

Every man, woman, boy, and girl flies kites in Korea. Children wear their names on their kites on January 14 of each year. As their kites go high up in the air, the children make a wish for success. They also wish that the kite may carry off all their troubles the whole year. Then they cut the strings loose and let their kites fly away.

One day a Korean general set a lantern upon a dragon-shaped kite. He wanted to inspire his soldiers who believed that the dragon is a symbol of good luck. He made them think that a new star had appeared as a sign of divine help. Very much inspired, the soldiers fought like wildcats. They won the battle and thanked the dragon-shaped which had brought them victory.

Kites also played an important role in China. In the olden days an emperor was held prisoner in a castle tower. His loyal men made a huge kite and sent it flying near the tower window. The emperor reached out, held on to the kite and safely escaped from the tower.

A. What is the main idea of each paragraph?

Match the number of each paragraph with its main idea. Write the letter in the blank.

A

- _____ Paragraph 1
- _____ Paragraph 2
- _____ Paragraph 3
- _____ Paragraph 4
- _____ Paragraph 5

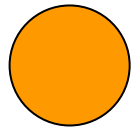
B

- a. How kites look in different countries
- b. How a Korean general and his men won the battle
- c. How a kite helped save an emperor
- d. Kite flying in Japan
- e. Kite flying in Africa
- f. Kite flying in Korea

* Are you done?

* Check your answers against the answer key.

* How much did you get? Write your score inside the circle.



* If you got 4 or 5, Excellent! Do the next module.

* If you got 3 and below, challenge yourself to do better in the next activity.



Let's Do More

Read the selection and answer the questions that follow. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

Do you know that the ordinary housefly has killed more men than any other creature since time began? The number of human beings slain by tigers and lions, bitten by snakes, and those killed in war is nothing compared to the number of those who have died because of this murderer, this common housefly.

Its chief method of murder is by carrying disease germs to our food. The fly that comes into our kitchen brings with it millions of bacteria. These multiply rapidly into billions. How can one housefly carry millions of germs? How can we count these millions of bacteria?

Scientists have a method of counting them. They capture an ordinary housefly. They place it in a bottle filled with a quart of water. They shake the bottle vigorously so that the germs are washed from the fly and distributed in the water. Then one of the scientists takes a drop of this polluted water and puts it under a powerful microscope. If there are fifteen germs in that drop of water, he will multiply this number by the number of drops in the bottle, perhaps half a million drops.

1. What is the whole selection about?
 - a. Scientists
 - b. Bacteria
 - c. The housefly
 - d. Criminals
2. What is the main idea in the first paragraph?
 - a. The housefly carries millions of germs.
 - b. Scientists can easily capture flies.
 - c. The housefly is the number one killer.
 - d. Many people were killed during the war.

3. What does the second paragraph tell us?
 - a. Flies carry disease germs to our food.
 - b. Snake bites have killed millions of people.
 - c. Human beings have been slain by lions and tigers.
 - d. We can easily count the germs brought by flies.
4. What is the main idea in the last paragraph?
 - a. Scientists have a method of counting germs.
 - b. Scientists choose the biggest housefly.
 - c. Scientists keep flies in a bottle.
 - d. Scientists examine all the flies.
5. Why does the scientist vigorously shake the bottle containing the housefly?
 - a. To make the fly dizzy
 - b. To wash away the germs from the fly
 - c. To kill the germs brought by the fly
 - d. To make bubbles inside the bottle

* Are you done? Look at the answer key again to check your answers.

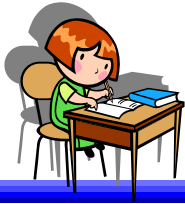
* Write your score in the ribbon.



Let's Remember This

The main idea is the most important idea, main point, in a sentence, paragraph, or story.

In a paragraph there usually is a key or topic sentence that gives the main idea of the paragraph. This key sentence may either be at the beginning, middle or at the end.



Let's Test Ourselves

Read the paragraph and the questions that follow. Circle the letter of the best answer.

Some boys and girls in grade six are in the adolescent stage. Adolescence in its literal sense means “becoming an adult”. The adolescent is characterized by an excessive necessity to prove himself as an adult. When he falls short of what he considers “adult standards,” he feels inadequate and insecure. He tries hard to make up for this feeling by being boastful, aggressive, and competitive.

The adolescent resents being treated as a child. He demands the rights and privileges of a grown-up. He wants to go to parties, visit places of entertainment his parents may approve of, to spend his time with his crowd without being questioned. The adolescent wants to become independent.

The social group to which the adolescent belongs has a powerful influence. He follows in a slavish manner to the dress, the manner of speech, and the behavior of his group. Sometimes the adolescent will even ignore parental advice in order to obtain group approval.

Besides the changes mentioned above, several other changes come about. The most striking are the physical changes among adolescents. There is a rapid increase in height. Girls grow taller two years earlier than the boys. However, the none growth of adolescent boys lasts longer so that they become relatively larger.

Boys and girls become bulkier during adolescence. Girls acquire fat although they eat less food. On the contrary, boys tend to lose body fat but eat more. Girls accumulate fat from the time they are eight years old. This continues up to the time they are 16 or 17. On the other hand, boys no longer gain fat from their thirteenth to their nineteenth year.

1. What is the main idea in the first paragraph?
 - a. The adolescent feels inadequate and insecure.
 - b. The adolescent wants to prove himself as an adult.
 - c. The adolescent is boastful and aggressive.
 - d. Some boys and girls in grade six are adolescents.
 2. What is the key or topic sentence in the second paragraph?
 - a. The adolescent wants to go to parties.
 - b. The adolescent wants to visit places of entertainment.
 - c. The adolescent wants to become independent.
 - d. The adolescent wants to spend his time with his crowd.
 3. What is the main idea in paragraph 3?
 - a. The adolescent ignores parental advice.
 - b. The adolescent imitates his friends in the way of dressing.
 - c. The adolescent follows slavishly the behavior of his group.
 - d. The social group to which the adolescent belongs has a powerful influence.
 4. According to the selection, what is the most striking change among adolescents?
 - a. physical changes
 - b. emotional changes
 - c. social behavior
 - d. spiritual beliefs
 5. What does the last paragraph tell us?
 - a. There is a rapid increase in weight.
 - b. There is a rapid increase in height.
 - c. Boys grow taller two years earlier than girls.
 - d. Boys and girls become bulkier during adolescence.
- * Are you done?
 - * Look at the answer key again then check your answers.
 - * How much did you get?
 - * If your score is 4 or 5, answer the next module.
 - * If your score is 1, 2 or 3, answer Let's Enrich Ourselves.

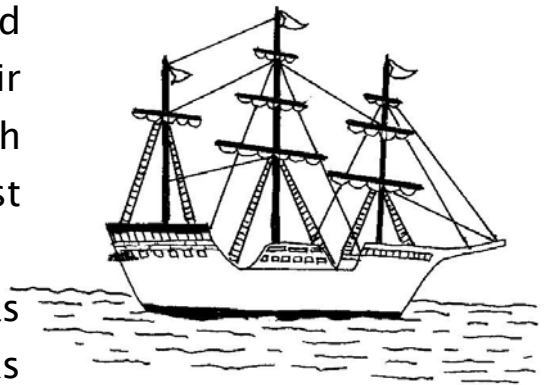


Let's Enrich Ourselves

Direction: Read the information about explorers to Antarctica.

A recorded sighting of Antarctica, the last continent to be discovered, was not made until the early nineteenth century. Since then, many brave explorers and adventurers have sailed south to conquer the icy land. Their achievements once gained as much world attention as those of the first astronauts.

Long before the continent was first spotted, the ancient Greeks suspected there was a continent at the bottom of the Earth. Over the centuries, legends of the undiscovered land spread. Some of the world's greatest seamen tried to find it, including Captain James Cook in 1772.



Cook was the first to sail all the way to the solid field of ice that surrounds Antarctica every winter. In fact, he sailed all the way around the continent but never saw it. Cook went farther south than anyone had ever gone. His record lasted 50 years.

Forty years after Cook, a new kind of seamen sailed the icy waters. They were hunters of seals and whales. Sailing through unknown waters in search of seals and whales, these men become explorers as well as hunters. The first person known to sight Antarctica was an American hunter, 21-year-old Nathaniel Brown Palmer in 1820.

Direction: Draw an X on the blank for the correct answer.

1. The main idea is:

- _____ Antarctica was not sighted until the early nineteenth century.
- _____ Many brave explorers and adventures have sailed south to conquer the icy land.

2. The first person to sail to the icy field that surrounds Antarctica was:

- _____ Nathaniel Brown Plamer
- _____ Captain James Cook
- _____ Neal Armstrong

3. His record for sailling the farthest south stood for:

- _____ 40 years
- _____ 50 years
- _____ 500 years

* Finished? Look at the answer key again then check your answers.

* How much did you get? _____

* Very Good!! Congratulations. Work well done.



Answer Key

Let's Do This

1. d
2. a
3. f
4. b
5. c

Let's Do More

1. c
2. c
3. a
4. a
5. b

Let's Test Ourselves

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. a
5. d

Let's Enrich Ourselves

1. Antarctica was not sighted until the early nineteenth century.
2. Captain James Cook
3. 50 years