

Main Ideas (Short Passages)



The MAIN IDEA is the meaning of the passage. Many times, it is a sentence in the passage. Choose the main idea for each of the passages below.

- 1. The Earth goes around the sun. In winter, our part of the Earth is farther away from the sun. It is very cold and it stays darker longer. In the summer, our part of the Earth is closer to the sun. Then it is very warm.
 - a. Earth moves around the sun
 - **b.** It is cold in the winter

- **c.** It is darker in the winter
- d. It is warm in the summer
- 2. Hiking is a great way for you to have fun. All you need is a good pair of shoes. You can hike in many places, such as the woods or a valley. You can walk for a long or short time. Hiking is even better if you go with your friends.
 - a. You need good hiking shoes
 - b. You will have a good time hiking

- **c.** Hikes can be long or short
- d. You can hike in the woods
- 3. Bats are different from many other animals. They are the only mammal that can fly. Some bats live in trees. Most bats live in caves or in attics. They only come out at night. When they are resting they hang upside down. Bats are very interesting animals.
 - a. Most bats live in caves or attics
 - **b.** Bats can fly
 - **c.** Bats only come out at night
 - d. Bats are interesting animals



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- 4. At the store we use coupons to save money. Coupons may come in the mail. Sometimes they are in the newspaper. You can get them in the store's ad, too. Usually you need to cut the coupon out.
 - a. Coupons save money

- c. You must cut coupons out of the ad
- **b.** Coupons can be found in different places
- **d.** You may find a coupon at the store
- Susan got a basket for a present. She uses it to carry many things. She puts food in the basket. She keeps toys in the basket. She even puts her kitten in the basket.
 - a. We need baskets

- c. Susan uses her basket a lot
- **b.** Baskets should be big

- d. Susan doesn't like to use the basket
- 6. Frank likes to go swimming. He swims every day that he can. He likes to swim in Blue Lake. Many of Frank's friends go swimming there too. Frank is a good swimmer.
 - a. Frank likes to swim often
- **c.** Frank is the best simmer in town
- **b.** Frank does not swim alone
- **d.** Frank swims every Saturday
- 7. Eskimos hunt animals. They use animals for food. They also use animal skins to make clothes. Eskimos only hunt animals they need. They do not hunt for fun.
 - a. Eskimos eat fish

c. Eskimos never hunt

b. Eskimos hunt for food and clothes

d. Eskimos hunt for fun



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- 8. Lisa went to a farm. There were animals on the farm. She liked the chickens and horses. She also liked the cows and kittens. Lisa would like to live on a farm.
 - a. Lisa worked on a farm
 - **b.** Lisa lives in the city
 - c. Lisa liked the farm
 - d. Lisa visited her grandfather's farm
- 9. Have you ever visited the city? Many people live in the city. There are many tall buildings in the city. Many people work in the city.
 - **a.** Everyone lives in the city
 - **b.** The city is fun
 - **c.** There are many people in the city
 - d. The city is a good place to live
- 10. Do you like to drink milk? Milk is very good for you. It helps you grow strong. You can drink milk with lunch or dinner. Milk and cookies are a good snack.
 - a. Milk is best with fruit
 - b. Cows give milk
 - c. Milk is good for you
 - d. You should drink milk in the morning