

Topic 2: Reading Comprehension - Main Idea

Chapter 2: Composition and Comprehension · Topic 2

Key Concept

The main idea is the central point a passage is making, often found in the first or last sentence of a paragraph.

Supporting details are facts or examples that provide evidence for the main idea, helping to explain or prove it.

To find the main idea, we ask: 'What is this passage mostly about?' and look for a common theme across sentences.

Identifying the main idea helps us understand and summarise what we read, an essential skill for comprehension.

Quick Revision Notes

- Main idea: central point of a passage.
- Often in first or last sentence.
- Supporting details provide evidence.
- They explain or prove the main idea.
- Ask: 'What is this mostly about?'
- Look for common theme across sentences.
- Finding main idea aids summarising.
- This is essential for comprehension.

Practice Questions

- 1 Read a paragraph and identify its main idea.
- 2 Find two supporting details for the main idea.
- 3 Summarise a passage in one sentence.
- 4 Discuss where you found the main idea in a text.
- 5 Read a passage and write its central theme.
- 6 Practice identifying the main idea in a news article.