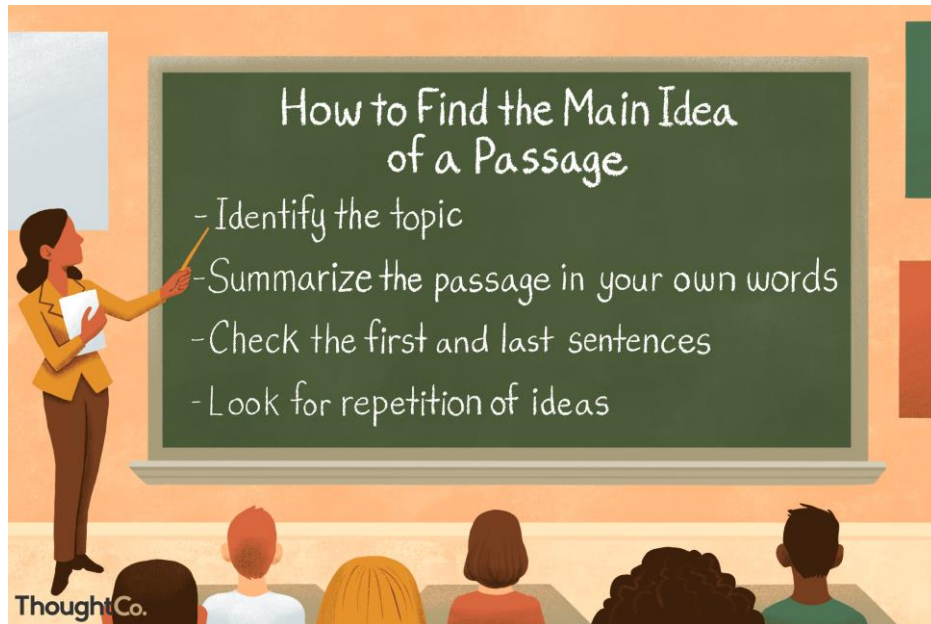


# LESSON 1



## COMPREHENSION STRATEGY: Finding the Main Idea



Read the following paragraphs and choose the best answer. Which is the main idea of the paragraph?

### PARAGRAPH 1

The railroad was not the first institution to impose regularity on society, or to draw attention to the importance of precise timekeeping. For as long as merchants have set out their wares at daybreak and communal festivities have been celebrated, people have been in rough agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day. The value of this tradition is today more apparent than ever. If it weren't for public acceptance of a single yardstick of time, social life would be unbearably chaotic: the massive daily transfers of goods, services, and information would proceed in fits and starts; the very fabric of modern society would begin to unravel.

**This paragraph best supports the statement that...**

- in modern society we must make more time for our neighbors.
- the traditions of society are timeless.
- an accepted way of measuring time is essential for the smooth functioning of society.
- society judges people by the times at which they conduct certain activities.

## **PARAGRAPH 2**

The best recipes for clam chowder all include onions and a bay leaf. The onions add a sharpness and zest to the blandness of the clams, and may also help remove their slimy texture. The bay leaf complements the onion's strong flavor.

**This paragraph best supports the statement that...**

- a. onions were once thought to be poisonous.
- b. bay leaves are essential in many soups.
- c. onions and bay leaves go well with clams.
- d. clams should not be overcooked.

## **PARAGRAPH 3**

There are no effective boundaries when it comes to pollutants. Studies have shown that toxic insecticides that have been banned in many countries are riding the wind from countries where they remain legal. Compounds such as DDT and toxaphene have been found in remote places like the Yukon and other Arctic regions.

**This paragraph best supports the statement that...**

- a. toxic insecticides such as DDT have not been banned throughout the world.
- b. more pollutants find their way into polar climates than they do into warmer areas.
- c. studies have proven that many countries have ignored their own anti-pollution laws.
- d. DDT and toxaphene are the two most toxic insecticides in the world.

## **PARAGRAPH 4**

Mathematics allows us to expand our consciousness. Mathematics tells us about economic trends, patterns of disease, and the growth of populations. Math is good at exposing the truth, but it can also perpetuate misunderstandings and untruths. Figures have the power to mislead people.

**This paragraph best supports the statement that...**

- a. words are more truthful than figures.
- b. the study of mathematics is more important than other disciplines.
- c. the power of numbers is that they cannot lie.
- d. figures are sometimes used to deceive people.

## **PARAGRAPH 5**

One of the missions of the Peace Corps is to help the people of interested countries meet their need for trained men and women. People who work for the Peace Corps do so because they want to, but to keep the agency dynamic with fresh ideas, no staff member can work for the agency for more than five years.

**The paragraph best supports the statement that Peace Corps employees...**

- a. are highly intelligent people.
- b. must train for about five years.
- c. are hired for a limited term of employment.
- d. have both academic and work experience.

**PARAGRAPH 6**

In cities throughout the country, there is a new direction in local campaign coverage. Frequently in local elections, journalists are not giving voters enough information to understand the issues and evaluate the candidates. The local news media devotes too much time to scandal and not enough time to policy.

**This paragraph best supports the statement that the local news media...**

- a. is not doing an adequate job when it comes to covering local campaigns.
- b. does not understand either campaign issues or politics.
- c. should learn how to cover politics by watching the national news media.
- d. has no interest in covering stories about local political events.

**PARAGRAPH 7**

The use of desktop computer equipment and software to create highquality documents such as newsletters, business cards, letterhead, and brochures is called Desktop Publishing, or DTP. The most important part of any DTP project is planning. Before you begin, you should know your intended audience, the message you want to communicate, and what form your message will take.

**The paragraph best supports the statement that...**

- a. desktop Publishing is one way to become acquainted with a new business audience.
- b. computer software is continually being refined to produce high quality printing.
- c. the first stage of any proposed DTP project should be organization and design.
- d. the planning stage of any DTP project should include talking with the intended audience.

**PARAGRAPH 8**

The entire low-carbohydrate versus low-fat diet argument is so prevalent that one would think that these are the only two options available for losing weight and staying healthy. Some experts even feel that the low-carb/low-fat debate distracts us from an even more important issue—our culture's reliance on processed and manufactured foods.

**The paragraph best supports the statement that...**

- a. experts state that not all fats are equal, so we need not reduce our intake of all fats; just those that contain partially hydrogenated oils.

- b. important health concerns get overlooked when we focus exclusively on the low-fat versus low-carb question.
- c. low-carbohydrate diets lead to significant and sustained weight loss.
- d. processed foods can lead to many adverse health problems including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and obesity.

#### **PARAGRAPH 9**

Every year, Americans use over one billion sharp objects to administer healthcare in their homes. These sharp objects include lancets, needles, and syringes. If not disposed of in puncture-resistant containers, they can injure sanitation workers. Sharp objects should be disposed of in hard plastic or metal containers with secure lids. The containers should be clearly marked and be puncture resistant.

**The paragraph best supports the idea that sanitation workers can be injured if they...**

- a. do not place sharp objects in puncture-resistant containers.
- b. come in contact with sharp objects that have not been placed in secure containers.
- c. are careless with sharp objects such as lancets, needles, and syringes in their homes.
- d. do not mark the containers they pick up with a warning that those containers contain sharp objects.

#### **PARAGRAPH 10**

Litigation is not always the only or best way to resolve conflicts. Mediation offers an alternative approach, and it is one that can be quite efficient and successful. Mediation can be faster, less expensive, and can lead to creative solutions not always possible in a court of law. Additionally, mediation focuses on mutually acceptable solutions, rather than on winning or losing.

**This paragraph best supports the idea that...**

- a. there is too much reliance on litigation in our society.
- b. litigation is expensive, slow, and limited by its reliance on following the letter of the law.
- c. mediation is the best way to resolve a crisis.
- d. mediation can be an effective way to resolve conflicts.

#### **PARAGRAPH 11**

More and more office workers telecommute from offices in their own homes. The upside of telecommuting is both greater productivity and greater flexibility. Telecommuters produce, on average, 20% more than if they were to work in an office, and their flexible schedule allows them to balance both their family and work responsibilities.

The paragraph best supports the statement that telecommuters...

- a. get more work done in a given time period than workers who travel to the office.
- b. produce a better quality work product than workers who travel to the office.
- c. are more flexible in their ideas than workers who travel to the office.
- d. would do 20% more work if they were to work in an office.

#### **PARAGRAPH 12**

Sushi, the thousand-year-old Japanese delicacy, started small in the United States, in a handful of restaurants in big cities. Today, sushi consumption in America is 50% greater than it was ten years ago and not just in restaurants. Sushi is also sold at concession stands in sports stadiums, university dining halls, and in supermarkets throughout the country.

This paragraph best supports the statement that...

- a. sushi is now a fast food as popular as hot dogs, burgers, and fries.
- b. more sushi is sold in restaurants than in supermarkets.
- c. Americans are more adventurous eaters than they were in the past.
- d. sushi wasn't always widely available in the United States.



### **GRAMMAR TOPIC: Tenses**

ENGLISH VERB TENSE	Past	Present	Future
<b>SIMPLE</b>	I <b>studied</b> English yesterday.	I <b>study</b> English.	I <b>will study</b> English.
<b>CONTINUOUS</b>	I <b>was studying</b> English.	I <b>am studying</b> English	I <b>will be studying</b> English.
<b>PERFECT</b>	I <b>had studied</b> English.	I <b>have studied</b> English.	I <b>will have studied</b> English.
<b>PERFECT CONTINUOUS</b>	I <b>had been studying</b> English.	I <b>have been studying</b> English.	I <b>will have been studying</b> English.



What is the function (use) of the following sentences from the text? The first one is already done to help you. **Use the Grammar Booklet to solve this exercise.**

**Present Continuous:**

- (...) journalists are not giving voters enough information to understand the issues and evaluate the candidates.

*La acción está sucediendo ahora. No es permanente ni habitual.*

**Simple Present:**

- The onions add a sharpness and zest to the blandness of the clams.

.....

- More and more office workers telecommute from offices in their own homes.

.....

- Some experts even feel that the low-carb/low-fat debate...

.....

**Present Perfect Simple:**

- Studies have shown that toxic insecticides that have been banned in many countries...

.....

- People have been in rough agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day.

.....

**Simple Past:**

- The railroad was not the first institution to impose regularity on society...

.....

### Simple Future:

- (...) and what form your message will take.
- 



## REVISION TOPIC 1: Parts of the Speech

**9 PARTS OF SPEECH**

**NOUN**  
Refers to the words or phrases that represent a person, a place, a thing or activity, or a quality or idea.  
E.g. dog, cat, elephant, , school, work, town, Manila, teacher, etc.

**PRONOUN**  
Refers to the words that are used instead of a noun or noun phrase in a sentence.  
E.g. he, I, its, me, my, she, that, this, those, etc.

**VERB**  
Refer to the words or group words that describe an action, experience or express a state of being.  
E.g. run, sit, stand, go, have, get, promise, invite, etc.

**ADJECTIVE**  
Refers to the words that describe a noun or pronoun.  
E.g. angry, brave, careful, healthy, little, old, generous, tall, some, good, big, etc.

**ADVERB**  
Refers to the words that describe a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a whole sentence.  
E.g. badly, fully, carefully, hardly, nearly, hungrily, never, etc.

**ARTICLE**  
Refer to the words that are used before a noun to modify the noun.  
E.g. the, a, an.

**PREPOSITION**  
Refers to the words that are used before a noun, pronoun, or gerund to show place, time, direction...  
E.g. above, except, from, in, near, of, before, since, etc.

**CONJUNCTION**  
Refers to the words that connect words, phrases or clauses in a sentence.  
E.g. and, or, so, after, since, before, either, neither, etc.

**INTERJECTION**  
Refers to the words or phrases that are used to express a strong feeling or emotion.  
E.g. ahem!, aha!, gosh!, aw!, great!, hey!, hi!, hooray!, etc.





**What kind of word is the under are the following in these sentences?**

<b>Today</b> , sushi consumption in America is 50% <b>greater</b> than it was ten years ago and not just in restaurants.	<i>adverbio / adjetivo</i>
(...) people have been in <b>rough</b> agreement with their <b>neighbors</b> as to the time of day.	
The onions add a sharpness and zest to the <b>blandness</b> of the clams, and may <b>also</b> help remove their slimy texture.	
Mediation <b>offers</b> an alternative approach, and it is one that can be <b>quite</b> efficient and successful.	
<b>The</b> containers should be clearly marked and be puncture <b>resistant</b> .	
Some experts even feel that the low-carb/low-fat <b>debate</b> distracts us <b>from</b> an even more important issue (...)	
(...) people have been in rough agreement <b>with their</b> neighbors as to the time of day.	



## **REVISION TOPIC 2: False Cognates**

**Cognate:** Words in two languages that share a similar meaning, spelling, and pronunciation.

**False Cognate:** A word in one language that is similar in form or sound to a word in another language but has a different meaning and may or may not be etymologically related; a false friend.







**Match the following false cognates with the meaning. Use a list of false friends available to help you.**

actually

fingir

current

resumen

argument

disculpa

library

consejo

pretend

grande

abstract

biblioteca

commodity

mercancía

advice

actual

large

asistir

apology

discusión

attend

en realidad

**WELL DONE!**

Answers will be available next week!