

Paragraphs: Main Idea

It is important when you write a paragraph that your reader can identify what your main idea is. The main idea of a paragraph is what all the sentences are about. To identify the main idea the reader should ask himself **“What’s your point?”**

Directions: Read each paragraph carefully. Choose the best answer to the questions that follow.

1. Juan loves to play games. His favorite game is chess because it requires a great deal of thought. 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 as long as they aren’t too violent.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Juan dislikes violence.
 - b. Juan likes to think.
 - c. Juan enjoys Monopoly.
 - d. Juan enjoys playing games.
2. Maria is watching too much television. A toddler shouldn’t be spending hours staring blankly at a screen. Worse yet, some of her wild behavior has been inspired by those awful cartoons she watches. We need to spend more time reading books with her and pull the plug on the TV!

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Watching a lot of television isn’t good for Maria.
 - b. Books are good.
 - c. All cartoons are bad.
 - d. Some cartoons are bad for Maria.
3. Samantha, I can’t eat or sleep when you are gone. I need to hear your scratchy voice and see your lovely toothless smile. I miss that special way that you eat soup with your fingers. Please come home soon!

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Samantha, you have bad manners.
 - b. Samantha, you should see a dentist.
 - c. Samantha, I miss you.
 - d. Samantha, I have lost my appetite.
4. Someday we will all have robots that will be our personal servants. They will look and behave much like real humans. We will be able to talk to these mechanical helpers and they will be able to respond in kind. Amazingly, the robots of the future will be able to learn from experience. They will be smart, strong, and untiring workers whose only goal will be to make our lives easier.

Which sentence from the paragraph expresses the main idea?

- a. Someday we will all have robots that will be our personal servants.
- b. We will be able to talk to these mechanical helpers and they will be able to respond in kind.
- c. They will look and behave much like real humans.
- d. Amazingly, the robots of the future will be able to learn from experience.