

BEGINNER READING
SKILLS CAMP

MAIN IDEA, DETAILS, CONCLUSION,
CAUSE AND EFFECT AND SEQUENCE,

FINDING THE MAIN IDEA

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____

Directions: Circle the main idea.

1. The seasons of the year are different. It is hot in the summer. It is cold in winter. In spring, it's cool. People go for walks in spring with sweaters.
2. How do you communicate? There are many ways to communicate. Some people use the telephone. Others talk face-to-face. Some people talk with their hands. I prefer to send text messages and emails.
3. Do you want to be a painter? It takes work to become a painter. You need to understand how colors work. You also need to practice a lot. You have to understand the different techniques of painting. I want to become a painter.
4. Bread is a great food. It can be eaten by itself. People use it in sandwiches. It is used in cooking. I buy bread in the supermarket. Bread has many uses.
5. Don't get caught in a tornado! Tornadoes are dangerous storms. They can destroy houses. They have damaging high winds which can rip things out of the ground. The winds can carry heavy objects in the air and then drop them anywhere! Tornadoes occur a lot in the Great Plains.
6. People use forks to get a grip of food. Spoons are used for liquids. Knives are used to cut. I sometimes eat with my hands. People eat with utensils to do different things.
7. Video games have stages. The beginning is usually easy. The middle stage gets challenging. The last stage is usually the hardest. I enjoy the middle stage of video games the most. I like to be first when I race at the playground. All the stages make video games fun.
8. Gardens are places of great beauty. Roses please the eye with their red color. Lilies are white and smell lovely. Tall green trees provide a cool area from the heat of the sun. Bees can often be found in gardens. The smell of gardens is pleasing to the nose.
9. Some go to the beach to swim. Some go to lie on the sand. Others go to get a tan. I like to have picnics on the beach. The water in the ocean is cold. People go to the beach for varied reasons.
10. The Smith family enjoys having barbecues. They put food on a grill to cook. Their dog always sleeps. They play games. They listen to music and dance. The Smith family does many things during their barbecues.

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11. Susan always carries an umbrella in her bag. Her sunglasses are always on her face. She carries a sweater in her bag. Susan always wants to be ready for whatever kind of weather might occur outside. She likes to eat outdoors.
12. Meyer is creative. He paints. He draws. He plays the guitar. He makes video games. He listens to the radio.
13. Patricia says "I have to get something to eat. I will buy some pizza and a salad. I will drink some juice with my food." Patricia orders food because she is hungry.
14. Hakeem said "I need to do something to not feel tired. I will relax for an hour. Then, I will go to bed. I will sleep for 9 hours. When I wake up, I will clean my room." Hakeem wants to feel rested.
15. Daisy finished playing a video game. She said "I lost again. I need to practice jumping more. I also need to learn how to fly. I will try different moves next time." Daisy wants to practice new techniques in her video game.
16. Many foods taste great at room temperature. There's nothing like a ripe banana. A piece of wheat bread with butter, amazing! And of course, potato chips! I eat ice cream in the summer.
17. If you want to pass your class, there are a couple of things that you should do. You should write notes during the lesson. You should do your homework. You should read your notes often. Eating candy will not give you energy to pass your class. You should watch cartoons.
18. Kids are active people. They do several things when they are at the playground. They ride the swings. They go up and down on the seesaw. They play hopscotch. Kids do their work at school. They wear sneakers playing catch and frisbee.
19. The fall is a beautiful time of year in nature. The leaves on the trees change color. Sweet smelling apples and pumpkins are harvested. The air becomes cool. Families draw pictures of food.
20. Boots offer protection from harsh weather. They protect your foot from getting soaked during rainstorms. They keep your legs warm when it snows. Hot apple cider can also keep you warm on a cold winter day. Boots keep your socks dry in any type of wet weather.

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21. Francine says “Mmmm, I love the flavors and texture in chicken soup. The carrots have a crunchy taste. The chicken has a smooth taste. The broccoli has an earthy taste. My mom cooks all kinds of soups in a pot. Francine enjoys chicken soup.
22. Elaine went on a trip today. She went to a carnival. She had a great time. Elaine says “The Ferris Wheel was amazing. The roller coaster was so fast! I rode some great rides at the carnival today. I’m glad I wore sunglasses today.”
23. Fernando arrives home from school. He is upset that he forgot his umbrella. Fernando says “Oh man, my feet are soaking wet. All my clothes are drenched! Bad things happen when you forget an umbrella. I hope water did not go through my bookbag and into my books. Can today go any worse?”
24. Thomas said to his mother “I slipped and fell on the ground. I hurt my hands. My knee is bruised. My leg hurts so bad. This is what happens when you run instead of walk! I’m in a lot of pain.” Thomas was hurt from his fall.
25. Want to stay cool in the summer? There are ways to stay to do it. Drink cold water. Stay in the shade. Don’t move around too much. These techniques always work. Drink hot chocolate.
26. There are several pieces of equipment needed to play baseball. First, a bat and ball are needed. Next, a catcher’s mitt. You’ll also need a mask for the catcher. Finally, you’ll need pads for the bases. Sometimes the playing field can be wet.
27. If there is too much salt on food, you can’t eat it. If there is too little salt, the food will have little flavor. Salt can completely change the taste of food. You should be careful when you cook with salt. Salt is used to melt snow.
28. Mary has three things she would do if she had wings. She told me “I would fly to school. I would go to the moon. I would fly to the trees when I needed to be alone. These are the three things I would do if I had wings. I’m going to do my homework now and fly in my mind.”
29. A cactus is easy to care for. It does not need a lot of water. It does not have leaves to prune. Ivey plants have lots of leaves. A cactus has prickly spikes instead of leaves. There will be no leaves to clean up.
30. Street signs tell you when to stop. They state the names of streets, roads, bridges and avenues. Some street signs warn you of animals crossing the road. Many animals get hit by cars when they cross a road. Street signs provide important information.

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31. Electric cars are friendly to the environment. They produce no pollution. They do not burn fossil fuels like gasoline. Some electric cars can be recycled into new cars. Bikes are a clean way to travel.

32. Fruits have vitamins. They are low in calories. They provide your body with the nutrients it needs to work well. Fruits have many benefits. I use lemons for lemonade.

33. People should take the stairs instead of using an elevator. There are benefits to taking the stairs. You'll get exercise for your legs. You'll save electricity by not riding the elevator. You can lose weight. I take the bus to work sometimes if I feel lazy. So are you ready to walk up some stairs now!

34. If you want to pass your class, you need to study the right way. First, make sure your notes are organized. Second, make sure you have a quiet place to study. Finally, make sure you set aside the time to do it! You should ride a bike to get energy every day.

35. Do you go to a dentist? Well, if you do, he or she probably reminds you to floss. You should floss every day. When you floss, you get the small pieces of food that can get stuck between your teeth. When food gets stuck between your teeth for several days, it can make your breath smell bad. When you floss regularly, you will have better smelling breath. You should buy tasty toothpaste too.

36. Food tastes better when it has a good flavor. You can use spices like salt and pepper on your vegetables. You can use herbs like thyme and parsley in your favorite sauces. You can use seasonings like Thai green curry and Adobo to add meats. Eating every day is important. You should always add a dash of spice, seasonings or herbs to your food to make it taste better.

37. Did you know that food often tastes better the day after you make it? Why? When you cook food and then refrigerate it, the flavors get to soak in the food. This makes the food taste better. Try it with some potato salad. You'll see that the potato salad will be creamier the next day. Many foods are made with cabbage.

38. Aaaahhhh-chuoo You should cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Here's why. People use their mouth to say "Hello!" and "Goodbye." By covering your mouth, you will stop the spread of possible germs that may be in your mouth. It will keep people around you dry. People will like you because they know you care about them because you covered your mouth.

39. It's important to stay active. To be active means to move your body regularly. For example, people can stay active by exercising. You can stay active by walking. You can take the stairs instead of using an elevator. Staying active helps you to stay fit. It keeps your heart healthy.

40. Hungry? You could make some fried chicken. When you cook chicken, you must make sure that it cooks completely. Chicken that is uncooked can carry a bacteria called salmonella. Salmonella can get you very sick. You will know that your chicken is good if it has no smell when raw. You will know that it is cooked when the meat is completely white inside.

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41. If you are going to cook meat, there is something you must know. You should avoid cooking meat on high heat. If you are making fried chicken and the heat is high, the chicken will burn. The outside will cook, but the inside will stay raw. Meat needs time for the heat to penetrate its flesh. If you cook meat at a medium heat, the flesh will cook more evenly.

42. Did you know success is achieved with persistence? Scientists perform dozens or hundreds of experiments before they achieve success. Chefs try out new recipes several times before getting their food to have just the right flavor. Even when a person first learns to ride a bike, he or she will not begin riding well immediately. Achieving success takes time and not giving up.

43. Here is a tip for cooking. You should cover your food when cooking. This practice keeps all the flavor with your food. It will also cook your food faster because little heat will be able to escape. It will also keep your stove cleaner because the food won't be able to splatter. For better food, you can also add spices and herbs.

44. If it's raining, carry an umbrella! An umbrella is useful. It helps keep you dry when it rains. Rain is called precipitation. You can use it to protect yourself from the sun on hot days. It protects you from things flying in your face on windy days. An umbrella costs about \$10.00.

45. Here's a frying tip. When you're frying food, don't add the ingredients to the pan until the oil is hot enough. If you add your items too early, your food will become oily. The food will taste slimy. You won't get any crunch on the outside of your food. Carrots are crunchy when raw.

46. It's important to learn from your mistakes. If you don't, you would have gotten nothing out of the bad experience. You will likely make the same mistake again in the future. You will also not grow as a person if you don't learn from your mistakes. Some people keep a journal in which they write about the ups and downs of their lives.

47. Cooking is fun. Eating the food we cook is even better. Want to find a way clean up faster after cooking? Well, it is best to clean while you cook for several reasons. It helps keep your kitchen clean. If you wash while you're cooking, you'll save time later when you are done. You might only have a few dishes to wash up after you have finished cooking. People all over the world cook.

48. Thinking about smoking? Well, smoking is bad for your health. It causes cancer and other diseases. It makes you smell like smoke. It gives you bad breath. Cigarettes are made with tobacco plants.

49. Boiled vegetables continue to cook after you turn the heat off. For example, if you boil broccoli, you need to drain out the hot water right away. If you leave the broccoli in the hot water, it will get soggy. If you want your food to have the perfect taste and crunch, drain the water and place your food in a room temperature container after you cook it and then eat it right away. You can also drop the vegetables in a bowl of ice water, to stop the heat already in the vegetables.

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50. Salt and sugar are great, but there are some things you probably should know about them. Too much of these products can make you sick. High blood pressure is caused by too much salt. Diabetes is caused by too much sugar. If you take small amounts of these foods, you lower your chance of getting sick by them. Watching your intake of salt and sugar can help keep you healthier.

51. The government creates traffic laws. When everybody follows them, we can travel more safely on the street. Following traffic laws provides order for cars and people on the road. It helps get people to their destination quicker. There are also fewer accidents when people follow traffic laws. There are many benefits to following traffic laws.

52. Soap is helpful. You should always wash your hands regularly. Your hands come into contact with many germ-filled surfaces throughout the day. Although you may not see the germs, they are there. When you don't wash your hands, you can get sick if the germs on your hands enter your mouth. You can also spread germs to more surfaces if you don't wash your hands regularly.

53. By seeing a doctor regularly, you lessen the chance of getting a disease and not knowing about it. You will be able to catch changes in your health early. Finally, you can get frequent advice on the best ways to stay healthy. Many parents take their children to the doctor frequently. You should have frequent check-ups at the doctor.

54. You should have fun every day. There are several positive effects of having fun. When you have fun, your body relaxes. Life is more enjoyable. Your mind will worry less. Having fun is better than being sad.

55. Did something bad happen? Well, it's better to think positively than negatively when unfortunate events occur. When you think positively, your day is likely to go in a better direction. When negative thoughts come in your mind, you can talk them away by telling yourself things that lift you up. For example, if you lost something by accident, you can hope that whoever finds it will put it to good use. You can also think about how you could make the future better. You can ask yourself "What did I learn from this experience?"

56. Are you an independent person? When someone is independent, he or she does not require the assistance of others. He or she can provide for their own needs. People who are independent usually know how to do many things. To be independent means to be able to do everything on your own. These people often have dogs to keep them company while they do their things.

57. One should not be afraid to try something new. Babies always like to try new things. When one tries something new, one can experience something different. One has the possibility of getting a new favorite! One can see something differently.

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58. Find what you love to do and do it. When you enjoy what you're doing, the activity won't seem like work. It takes work to cook a turkey! You can become an expert in that activity. You could maybe become a teacher of that activity. Doing what you enjoy feels good. There are many advantages to doing what you love.

59. You should walk and not run. Holding a handrail while on stairs allows you to travel more safely. When you hold the handrail, you can keep your balance. You will be less likely to fall while climbing the stairs. If something wet is on the stairs, you will be less likely to slip. Handrails protect you from getting injured.

60. Thirsty? Well, what would you like? There are many types of drinks available today. Some types are sodas, natural fruit juices, flavored milks, seltzers and of course water. If you're in the mood for something sweet, an ice-cold soda could do the trick. If you feel like drinking something healthy and naturally sweet, you could have a nice plant-based drink like orange-strawberry-banana juice. Finally, if you want something unsweetened and refreshing you could try a fruit flavored seltzer. You can also get a milkshake at a restaurant.

61. All types of materials are being recycled today. For example, recycled bottles can be turned into clothes, furniture, and bags. Cardboard can be recycled into cereal boxes, tissue, and paper towels. Finally, electronics can be recycled into laptops, jewelry, art, and metal plates. I use a laptop in school and make art in my notepad. Many types of useful things can be made from recycled materials.

62. People play many different types of sports. Some play basketball. When one runs in basketball, one gives their legs and heart exercise. Others play tennis. Tennis can give your arms a good workout. While golf does not involve intensive movement, it can get you moving around and keep the blood in your body moving. It's important to always get some exercise each day. Playing sports is a good way to get exercise.

63. A chemical is a substance with water in it. Soda is a chemical with sugar, flavorings, and water. People drink soda. Dishwashing liquid is a chemical used to clean dishes. Bakers add liquid food coloring to cakes. There are many types and uses for chemicals. Cakes come in many colors.

64. Money provides a way for people to exchange things. Money can be exchanged for tangible (real) things like apples, cars, orange juice, clothing and soap. It is also used in exchange for intangible things or things you can't put in your hands like internet service or the healthcare service you receive at a doctor's office. Finally, money is used to purchase experiences like vacations, going to an amusement park or going bowling. People use money every day.

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65. Flip flops are lightweight shoes. People wear them in many places. People wear them at the beach, so they don't have to walk on rocky sand. Some wear them where there are many bare feet (like at pools), to keep bacteria away from their feet. Flip flops are worn at home for comfort. Flip flops come in many colors.

66. The skills required for jobs are always changing. It's important for people to always get new skills for several reasons. Knowledge of many computer programs is needed for jobs in which you can work at home. Knowing more than one language is needed as more and more companies do business around the world. Finally, knowing how to make apps for mobile phones is an important skill to have. People spend a lot of time on their mobile phones for all sorts of reasons. People can get the skills they need by taking classes in schools or online. Staying up to date in your job skills will ensure you can always get a job.

67. Kyle was told in class that he has a test tomorrow in school. Usually, when he arrives home after school, he plays video games. Today, when he arrived home, he played video games as usual. While he played, he knew that he should be studying. Three hours later, his mother asked him if he had anything important to do for school. He said, "Not really." After thinking about it, he decided to study. He would soon have to go to bed. He knew that if he failed the test, his mother would find out that he lied to her. Kyle then said to himself "It always best to study for your test so you can hopefully pass it."

68. Derrick is practicing basketball. He wants to get on the basketball team at school. He often practices with a headset on his head. Derrick loves music. He notices that when he plays without listening to music that he plays better. He knows this because he keeps a record of the number of shots he gets when he practices with and without the headset. After Derrick tries out for the team, he finds out that he didn't make it. He decides to try for next year's team. At this point, he decides to stop listening to music when he practices. When Derek tells his mother the news, she feels sad for Derrick. She tells him, "It's better that you practice without music so you can concentrate on what you're doing." She then gives Derrick a hug.

69. Russell's room often gets messy quickly. His room was so messy yesterday that he could not see the floor. Russell cleaned his room yesterday. Afterwards, he could see the floor and find all his things. Today he threw some clothes on the floor. He then realized that a messy room was starting again. He then says to himself "I'm going to stop the mess before it gets worse." He then picked up the shirt pants he threw on the floor and hung them up in his closet.

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Directions: Circle the main idea.

70. You can make a difference. You can volunteer in school. You can pick up trash in the park. You can help the elderly by visiting them in nursing homes. Everybody likes to do hard work for fun. What is the main idea?

- a. You can learn from different people.
- b. You can help make the world better.
- c. You can stay healthy by eating healthy.
- d. You should keep yourself busy.

71. Pepper makes food tastes spicy. Sugar makes food tastes sweet. Lemons makes food have a sour taste. Grapefruits are bitter. Different foods have different tastes. I enjoy hamburgers.

- a. Each food has a unique taste.
- b. Food is needed to survive.
- c. Hamburgers are enjoyed by many.
- d. You should like the different tastes of food.

72. Hats protect you from the hot sun. They will keep your head dry in the rain. They are fashionable to wear. They can make an outfit look great. People will compliment you if you wear an interesting hat. Sunglasses are good to wear on sunny days.

- a. Sunglasses go well with hats.
- b. Hats are for you head.
- c. Hats protect you from the hot sun.
- d. There are many reasons to wear a hat.

73. There are several ways to stay healthy. First, eat lots of plant-based food. Second, exercise regularly. Thirdly, get enough sleep. Doing these three things can help you to feel good and strong. Plants stop growing in the winter.

- a. Plant-based food is good for you.
- b. You should stay healthy.
- c. There are several ways to stay healthy.
- d. Plants stop growing in the winter.

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What did you learn from doing these activities?

What strategy can you use in the future to find the main idea of a text?

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Notes
