YOURpath TABE Worksheet
Reading - Level E
Skill: Main Idea

Name: _____ Date: _____

What You Need to Know

The main idea is what the passage is mostly about. It is the big point the author wants you to understand.

Guided Example

Passage:
The weather forecast says it will rain this afternoon. People are encouraged to bring umbrellas and drive carefully on wet roads.

Question: What is the main idea
A. People should stay home all day
B. Rain is expected, and people should prepare
C. The roads will be closed
D. Umbrellas are on sale

Correct Answer: B

Practice

Directions: Read each passage. Choose the answer that best states the main idea.

Passage 1
The school is starting a recycling program. Students can place paper, plastic bottles, and cardboard in special blue bins around the building.

What is the main idea?
A. The school is beginning a recycling program
B. Students must throw everything in the trash
C. Only teachers can recycle
D. The school is closing the cafeteria

Passage 2
A new bus schedule was posted at the station. It shows updated arrival times and new routes to help riders get to work more easily.

What is the main idea?
A. The buses are all running late
B. A new bus schedule provides updated times and routes
C. Riders must buy new tickets

D. The station is closing for repairs

Passage 3
The science class planted bean seeds in small cups. Each day, students measured the plants and recorded how much they grew.

What is the main idea?
A. The students are studying plant growth
B. The students are learning to cook beans
C. The plants stopped growing
D. The class is taking a field trip

Passage 4
A local restaurant is offering a special breakfast menu this week. Customers can choose from eggs, pancakes, fruit bowls, and oatmeal at a lower price.

What is the main idea?
A. The restaurant is offering discounted breakfast options
B. The restaurant is closing for the week
C. Only oatmeal is available
D. Customers must order lunch

Passage 5
The community center is hosting a job fair on Saturday. Employers will be there to talk about open positions and answer questions from job seekers.

What is the main idea?
A. The community center is hosting a job fair
B. Only students can attend
C. The employers are hiring only teachers
D. The center is offering free classes

Answer Key
A, B, A, A, A

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