

Implied Main Ideas - Tutor Hints

The **Implied Main Idea** is one that is NOT clearly stated in any one sentence in a passage. It is only suggested or inferred by the supporting details. The author doesn't state it directly.

On a reading test, some answers are there to confuse you. So before looking at them, cover them up. Read the passage and note each of the *major supporting details*. **In your own words**, what would you call this list: "Causes of the revolution"? "Ways to save money"? "Stages of childhood"? The name of that list would be the topic.

- What is the author trying to tell you about the topic?
- Turn the topic into a sentence that reflects the author's purpose, and that will be the *implied main idea*)

Once you think you have formed the implied main idea in your own words, confirm your answer by using some of the following strategies:

- Does every *major detail* support it?
- Does your answer provide a general idea or summary for the details?
- Try to mark the *major supporting details* and notice what they have in common.
- If one of your major details talks about something else, you'll have to rethink the *implied main idea* so that it is supported by all of them.

Practice: Try to formulate the implied main idea for each of these selections.

We're often told "He who hesitates is lost," but we're also warned to "look before you leap." Most of us have heard the saying, "Out of sight, out of mind," but then we hear "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." Everyone talks about "love at first sight." But then someone reminds us, "Marry in haste, repent at leisure." It's all very confusing.

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The United States calls its basic unit of currency the "dollar". Australia and New Zealand have also measure their currency by "dollars". The money in Great Britain is called the "pound". Korea uses the "won". In Russia you spend "rubles". Mexico and the Philippines use a "peso". And the country of Zaire calls its money unit a "Zaire".

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One myth about exercise is that if a woman lifts weights, she will develop muscles as large as a man's. Without extra male hormones, however, a woman cannot increase her muscle bulk as much as a man's. Another misconception about exercise is that it increases the appetite. Actually, regular exercise stabilizes the blood-sugar level, which prevents hunger pains. Some people also think that a few minutes of exercise a day or one session is enough, but at least three solid workouts a week are needed for muscular and cardiovascular health.

Implied Main Ideas:

Answers may vary

1. There are many sayings in our culture that contradict one another or are very confusing.
2. Different countries have different names for currency.
3. There are many myths about exercise.