



# Main Idea and Summarizing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: Grade 4

## Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence:

A good summary of a chapter about volcanoes should list every fact about lava temperature.

Rewrite: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Fix the sentence:

The main idea of an article about healthy eating is that apples have vitamin C.

Rewrite: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fix the sentence:

A summary should be longer than the original passage so no information is left out.

Rewrite: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a short retelling of the most important parts of a text.
2. The main idea can often be found in the \_\_\_\_\_ sentence of a paragraph.
3. Minor details are interesting but not \_\_\_\_\_ to the main idea.
4. Key details help \_\_\_\_\_ or explain the main idea of a passage.

## Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What should you leave out when writing a summary?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where in a paragraph can you usually find the main idea?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key · Main Idea and Summarizing · Grade: Grade 4

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### Part A: Fix the Sentence

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Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence:

A good summary of a chapter about volcanoes should list every fact about lava temperature.

Rewrite: **A good summary of a chapter about volcanoes should tell the key points about how volcanoes form and erupt.**

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2. Fix the sentence: *The main idea of an article about healthy eating is that apples have vitamin C.*

Rewrite: **The main idea of an article about healthy eating is that a balanced diet keeps your body strong.**

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3. Fix the sentence: *A summary should be longer than the original passage so no information is left out.*

Rewrite: **A summary should be shorter than the original passage and include only the key information.**

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### Part B: Fill in the Blank

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Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. A **summary** is a short retelling of the most important parts of a text.
2. The main idea can often be found in the **first** sentence of a paragraph.
3. Minor details are interesting but not **essential** to the main idea.
4. Key details help **support** or explain the main idea of a passage.

### Part C: Short Answer

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Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What should you leave out when writing a summary?

*You should leave out minor details, repeated information, and personal opinions that do not support the main idea.*

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2. Where in a paragraph can you usually find the main idea?

*The main idea is often in the first or last sentence of a paragraph, but sometimes you must figure it out*

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