

# MAIN IDEA + *details*

## Quick Practice

### COMPANY BULLETIN:

#### Drug and Alcohol Policy

- (1) Employees will not take, sell, have, or use illegal drugs while at work.
- (2) Employees will also be sober and able to work safely while on duty.
- (3) Employees who do not follow the policy are a danger to themselves and others.
- (4) If an employee is caught doing any of these things, they will be disciplined, which can include being fired.
- (5) If the drug is legally prescribed to you from a doctor, you may take it while at work.

*What is the main point of the bulletin?*

*Can you take prescribed medicine while at work?*

*What sentence numbers are supporting details?*

## DEFINITIONS

The **main idea** of the paragraph is the most important part. It is the purpose of the paragraph. It can also be thought of as the topic of the paragraph. What is the author focusing on? What does the author want you to take away from reading the paragraph?

### Helpful Hint:

The main idea is usually placed in the first sentence of the paragraph or the last sentence of the paragraph.

**First**

*or*

**Last**

Supporting **details** are used to fatten up the main idea. Supporting details usually come in the form of facts, examples, and details that are directly related to the main idea. Typically, supporting details follow the main idea sentence.

**BEWARE:** not all sentences contain supporting details.

## Real Life Examples

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For good health, you should read the nutrition label on food you are eating. Nutrition labels have important information about what you are putting into your body. Ingredients listed on the label are put in order so that the ingredient used the most is at the beginning. Serving size is not always one package, it is important to look at how many servings are in the package. The calories shown should be added up to how many servings there are. Overeating can cause many health problems.

To open a checking account, you should consider what kind of fees, if any, come with the account. For example: some accounts may charge you if you spend too much and others may have a yearly fee. It is also important that you have the right kind of identification including your social security number and address. Some accounts can be shared. Choose who will have access to your account. Fill out an application at the bank you picked. You may have to have a minimum deposit. As you can see a setting up a checking account has a several important steps.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR

### FINDING THE MAIN IDEA:

1. Ask yourself what or who the paragraph is talking about.
2. Try to summarize the paragraph in one sentence.
3. Think of the main idea as what is for dinner and the supporting details as the ingredients used to make it.
4. Take a good look at the title, if there is one.
5. What does the author want you to know?

*Need more help?*

*Need more to read?*

**A good place for additional help would be your local library.**