Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea about a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

**Directions** Read the following passage and complete the diagram. State the main idea of the passage and three supporting details.

A**rtist Wesley Dennis (1903–1966)** was an expert at painting horses. He had the ability to capture each horse’s personality in his paintings. In 1945, writer Marguerite Henry asked him to illustrate her first book, *Justin Morgan Had a Horse*. He illustrated fifteen of Henry’s horse books, including *King of the Wind* and *Misty of Chincoteague*. All three of these books were very popular with children and won awards for children’s literature. Dennis is also known for his paintings in Anna Sewell’s powerful story *Black Beauty*.

5. Write a one-sentence summary of this passage.

**Home Activity** Your child identified the main idea and details of a brief passage. Work with your child to identify the main idea and details for individual paragraphs in a magazine or newspaper article. Challenge your child to write a summary of it.
The cell phone is the modern invention that has changed people’s lives the most. Before cell phones were invented, people were unable to contact one another without being inside a house where there was a landline telephone. Now you use a cell phone to call people when you are just about anywhere! You can also use cell phones for more than just phone calls.

Cell phones now come in all shapes and sizes. You can keep them in your purse, pocket, or even attached to your ear. Cell phones are used to send e-mail, surf the Internet, and play games. You can even take photos or make videos using your phone!

A cell phone can be a telephone, a computer, a camera, and a camcorder, a game player, and a music player all in one. Imagine if you had to carry around all of those things in your school bag at the same time. That would be too much! Don’t you agree?

For these reasons, I think the cell phone is the most important invention of our times.

1. Underline the topic sentence.

2. List two examples of details or relevant evidence that support the writer’s viewpoint.

3. Circle where the writer tries to get support for the idea.
Name ________________________________

**Vocabulary**

**Directions** Choose the word from the box that best matches each definition. Write the word on the line.

1. a big gun mounted on a base or wheels
   - cannon

2. a person who designs and makes plans for buildings
   - architect

3. made, shaped, or done
   - fashioned

4. a person who studies the basic nature of knowledge and reality
   - philosopher

5. a person who wants and tries to get the same thing as another or tries to do better than another
   - rival

**Directions** Choose the word from the box that best fits in each sentence. Write the word on the line shown to the left.

6. The horse’s yellow-brown coat was so rich and shiny it looked like it was made from ______.
   - bronze

7. Working together on their books about horses, Wesley Dennis and Marguerite Henry ______ great success.
   - achieved

8. Amelia was known as the best artist in school, but her ______ Lily was trying to outdo her with a new painting.
   - rival

9. The wild pony did not like being fenced in. It was happier in the ______ of the wide open fields.
   - midst

10. Julia felt sad, or ______, when she had to leave the ranch at the end of the summer.
    - depressed

**Write a Journal Entry**

On a separate sheet of paper write a journal entry describing an animal you have drawn. Use as many vocabulary words as you can. Include a drawing if possible.
Principal Parts of Regular Verbs

A verb’s tenses are made from four basic forms. These basic forms are called the verb’s principal parts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>watch (am, is, are)</td>
<td>watching</td>
<td>watched</td>
<td>(has, have, had) watched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>study (am, is, are)</td>
<td>studying</td>
<td>studied</td>
<td>(has, have, had) studied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A regular verb forms its past and past participle by adding -ed or -d to the present form.

- The present and the past forms can be used by themselves as verbs.
- The present participle and the past participle are always used with a helping verb.

Directions Write the form of the underlined verb indicated in ()

1. For centuries, people admire the works of Leonardo da Vinci. (past participle)

2. Today he enjoy the title of greatest genius of the Renaissance. (present participle)

3. He observe everyday activities as a scientist. (past)

4. Leonardo paint with greater skill than any other artist of his time. (past)

5. He fill notebooks with his observations, illustrations, and original ideas. (past)

6. Scientists create working models from his instructions and drawings. (past participle)

7. Leonardo’s life inspire me to be more observant. (past participle)

Directions Underline the verb in each sentence. Write present, present participle, past, or past participle to identify the principal part used to form the verb.

8. Leonardo lived in Vinci, Italy, as a boy.

9. Soon he had developed a keen eye and an observant nature.

10. Most people recognize the name Leonardo da Vinci.

School + Home Home Activity Your child learned about principal parts of regular verbs. Ask your child to write the principal parts of love, live, and dream and then use each part in a sentence about himself or herself.

192 Conventions Principal Parts of Regular Verbs
Compound Words

**Complete the Sentence** Write the list word that best completes the sentence.

1. Do you know that three teaspoons equal one ____?
2. The ____ is a place where justice is tested every day.
3. The ant stored food while the ____ played.
4. When you’re away for a while, it is common to feel ____.
5. The hum from a ____ comes from its rapidly beating wings.
6. Some people wear a ____ to sleep on an airplane.
7. The ____ is full of exotic plants.
8. The circle of light on the stage was from the ____.
9. I like to walk ____ in the wet sand.
10. The ____ was full of old news clippings and photos.

**Definitions** Answer each clue with a list word. Write it on the line.

11. hills, trees, and lakes
12. not heavy at all
13. carries a message
14. hang something with it
15. stays dry
16. shaking ground
17. boat with oars
18. worm holder
19. one-third of a tablespoon
20. circling water

*School & Home* 
Your child used the meanings of list words to write them in sentences and match them with synonyms. Ask your child to tell you what a compound word is and give three examples.
### Scoring Rubric: Persuasive Speech

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus/Ideas</strong></td>
<td>Has a clear focus, position, or claim; uses reasons that support an opinion</td>
<td>Has a mostly clear focus, position, or claim; uses some reasons that support an opinion</td>
<td>Lacks a clear focus, position, or claim; lacks supporting reasons</td>
<td>Has no clear focus, position, or claim; has no supporting reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td>Has well-organized argument with strong evidence supported by facts and details</td>
<td>Includes an organized argument with some supporting facts and details</td>
<td>Lacks an organized argument or with few supporting facts and details</td>
<td>Has no argument or supporting facts and details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voice</strong></td>
<td>Uses clear persuasive language and an active voice</td>
<td>Uses mostly persuasive language and an active voice</td>
<td>Uses very little persuasive language; very little active voice</td>
<td>Uses no persuasive language or active voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Choice</strong></td>
<td>Strong persuasive language</td>
<td>Language persuasive</td>
<td>Language sometimes unpersuasive</td>
<td>Language unpersuasive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sentences</strong></td>
<td>Smooth, varied, rhythmic sentences</td>
<td>Some variety in sentences</td>
<td>Many sentences lacking variety</td>
<td>Choppy or rambling sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conventions</strong></td>
<td>Correct use of principal parts of regular verbs</td>
<td>Mostly correct use of principal parts of regular verbs</td>
<td>Little correct use of principal parts of regular verbs</td>
<td>No correct use of principal parts of regular verbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary • Greek and Latin Roots

Many English words are based on Greek or Latin roots, which are often included in their definitions in a dictionary. Greek and Latin roots may help you understand the meanings of unfamiliar words.

The root bio- means “life,” arch- means “chief or ruler,” and philo- means “loving.”

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

The great Renaissance artist Raphael achieved fame during his lifetime. He was respected as an architect. He designed two churches in Rome, but he is known more for his painting than for his architecture. One of his most famous paintings is called The School of Athens. It shows the philosopher as a hero. The Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle are at the center of the painting. They are standing in the midst of other great philosophers from ancient times. Raphael had many students in his studio. They helped him complete his larger works. Raphael was a well-loved teacher, and some of the students thought of others students as rivals. After Raphael’s death, however, his students worked together to complete many important works started by their teacher. The biographer Giorgio Vasari called Raphael “the prince of painters.”

1. The Greek root arch- means “chief or ruler.” The Greek word tekton means “builder.” What do these tell you about the meaning of architect?

2. The Greek root philo- means “loving.” The Greek word sophia means “knowledge, learning.” What do these tell you about the meaning of philosopher?

3. The Greek root bio- means “life.” The Greek word graphia means “record.” What do these tell you about the meaning of biographer?

4. The Latin word studium means “to study.” What does this tell you about the meaning of studio?

5. Write as many words as you can think of that use the roots arch-, philo-, and bio-. If you cannot think of any words on your own, use the dictionary for help.

Home Activity Your child identified Greek and Latin roots to understand unfamiliar words in a passage. Read a passage with your child and see if you can find words with Greek and Latin roots. Use a dictionary for any words you are not sure of. Then think of other words with the same root to figure out their meanings.
Skim and Scan

To scan is to move one’s eyes quickly down the page, seeking specific words and phrases. Scanning is used to find out if a resource will answer a reader’s questions. Once a reader has scanned a document, he or she might go back and skim it.

To skim a document is to read the first and last paragraphs, as well as to use headings, summaries, and other organizers as you move down the page. Skimming is used to quickly identify the main idea. You might also read the first sentence of each paragraph.

Directions Scan the passage to answer the questions below.

Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)
Early Life and Career. Dürer’s training began as a draftsman in his father’s workshop in Germany. By the age of thirteen, he had already made his first self-portrait. One year later, in 1485, he produced Madonna with Musical Angels. For four years, he studied painting and woodcutting with a master.

Travel and Artistic Growth. In 1490, Dürer began several years of travel and painting. His trips around Europe were very important to his artistic development.

His journeys to Italy, the Netherlands (Holland), France, and Switzerland especially influenced his art.

Important Works. By 1505, Dürer was famous. Eventually he became recognized as the greatest German Renaissance painter and printmaker. Some of Dürer’s important works include Self-Portrait (1500), Portrait of a Young Man (1500), The Feast of the Rose Garlands (1506), Adam and Eve (1507), and Four Apostles (1526).

1. When you scan this passage, what helps you find specific information?
2. In which paragraph would you find the titles of Dürer’s most famous paintings?
3. In which paragraph would you find out if Dürer painted as a youth?
4. In what part of the passage would you find when Dürer lived?
5. Can you find out about Dürer’s printmaking methods by scanning this passage?
Directions  Skim the following passage to answer the questions below.

The Printing Press

The inventor of the printing press was a goldsmith named Johannes Gutenberg. The invention of the press occurred around 1450 in Germany, and it marked an important advance for Renaissance culture.

The use of the printing press spread rapidly throughout Europe. By the year 1500, as many as twenty million books had been printed. The discovery changed life during the Renaissance. For one thing, there was an increase in the number of people who learned to read. Secondly, printing spread knowledge and ideas. Some scholars believe that the invention of the printing press was nearly as important as the invention of writing itself.

6. What is a good way to skim this passage?

7. What is the topic of this passage?

8. Is the passage about silversmithing? How can you tell?

9. Is the writer of this passage conveying facts or opinions? How can you tell?

10. How would you express the main idea of this passage?
**Compound Words**

### Proofread a Letter

Halie wrote a letter home from camp. There are seven spelling errors and one capitalization error. Circle the errors and write the corrections on the lines.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I’m not crying or homesick. This paper got a little wet because I’m in a rowboat. I have a fish hook on the line. The countryside around camp is awesome. We run around barefoot most days. My Counselor is the nature teacher. Yesterday, everybody saw a hummingbird. The camp has a greenhouse where all the vegetables we eat are grown. Thanks for the waterproof slicker. It’s lightweight and will keep me dry. You sent a really beautiful postcard of the Grand Canyon. I used a thumbtack to hang it on my bunk wall!

Write soon,

Halie

1. ______________
2. ______________
3. ______________
4. ______________
5. ______________
6. ______________
7. ______________
8. ______________

### Proofread Words
Correct the spellings of the list words. Write the words correctly on the lines.

9. Meet me on the steps of the courthouse.
10. My scrapbook is full of pictures and mementos.
11. Performers love to be in the spotlight.
12. The bathwater went down the drain in a little whirlpool.
13. Pictures fell off the wall during the earthquake.
14. I folded my scarf into a blindfold.
15. A grasshopper has long, strong legs.

**Home Activity** Your child identified misspelled compound words. Ask your child to spell three of the compound words for you.

198 Spelling Compound Words
Leonardo’s Journals

(1) Leonardo da Vinci pursued a wide range of interests. (2) He had so many ideas that new ones distracted him from other projects. (3) Some have observed that he possessed too many abilities. (4) One lifetime contains too few hours for such a man. (5) Leonardo’s journals (preserve) many of his plans and ideas. (6) In them, he recorded plans for many inventions. (7) This is how we learn of his great genius today.

1 Which describes the principal part of the underlined verb in sentence 1?

A  Past
B  Present
C  Past participle
D  Present participle

2 What is the present form of the underlined verb in sentence 2?

A  distract
B  am distracting
C  is distracting
D  are distracting

3 Which describes the principal parts of the two underlined verbs in sentence 3?

A  Past/Past
B  Present participle/Past
C  Past participle/Past
D  Present participle/Past participle

4 Which two present tense verbs are found in this passage?

A  preserved, learn
B  have, learn
C  recorded, learn
D  contains, learn

5 Which form of the verb in parentheses best completes sentence 5?

A  has preserved
B  have preserved
C  are preserved
D  is preserving

School + Home

Home Activity  Your child prepared for taking tests on principal parts of verbs. Ask your child to name the principal parts of the verbs paint and invent and then use each part in a sentence.