

LEVEL 2 -- COMPREHENSION PRETEST

Read the following story and answer the questions by choosing the letter for the best answer. Each correct answer is worth 10 points.

The ovenbird is a kind of bird that lives in another country. Ovenbirds are named after the mud nests that they make. When rains make the mud soft, the birds begin to build their homes. They use the mud and grass to build up the walls and roof of the nest until they are over an inch wide.

Each year the ovenbird builds a new home. The old nest is used by hornets, wasps, or other birds.

1. This story tells most about
 - (A) houses.
 - (B) ovenbird nests.
 - (C) grass.

2. Ovenbirds build their nests with
 - (A) stones.
 - (B) sticks and string.
 - (C) mud and grass.

3. Other birds can use the old nests of the ovenbird because
 - (A) ovenbirds build a new home each year.
 - (B) they chase the ovenbirds away.
 - (C) it is a big nest.

4. The ovenbirds begin to build their homes after

- (A) the rains make the mud soft.
- (B) the sun goes down.
- (C) the grass turns brown.

5. Which sentence would be true of the ovenbird nests?

- (A) They are very small.
- (B) They are strong and last a long time.
- (C) The ovenbirds use it every year.

Score_____



LEVEL 2 -- INSTRUCTIONAL LESSON No. 1

You know that a group of words that is about one thing is called a sentence. Sometimes more than one sentence can be about one important idea. Read these sentences.

Harry likes to cook hot dogs. He puts them on a long stick. He holds the hot dogs over a hot fire until they are cooked.

The sentences are about how Harry likes to cook hot dogs. This important idea is called the main idea of the sentences. Read this group of sentences. Try to decide the main idea that the sentences are about.

Debbie has many toy animals. She has two soft toy rabbits. She has a big toy dog that looks as if it is sleeping. Debbie has some toy bears that she puts on her bed.

Choose the letter that marks the best answer to the question.

1. Which of these sentences tells the **main idea** of the story about Debbie?
 - (A) Debbie has many toy animals.
 - (B) Debbie puts toy bears on her bed.
 - (C) Debbie likes to play dolls.

Sentence A is the main idea sentence because it tells about all the animals that Debbie has. The other sentences each tell about just one kind of animal, but together they tell more about the main idea.

Read this short story:

(1) Scott likes to read books about sports. (2) He reads books about baseball. (3) Scott also reads books about football. (4) He likes to read books about basketball, too.

2. Which numbered sentence tells the *main idea* of the story?

- (A) 1.
- (B) 2.
- (C) 3.
- (D) 4.

The first sentence is the *main-idea* sentence because all the other sentences tell more about the sport books Scott likes to read.

3. What sports did Scott like to read about? ---*Choose Three*---

- (A) Baseball.
- (B) Football.
- (C) Kickball.
- (D) Basketball.

Sometimes the *main-idea* sentence comes at the end of a group of sentences. Here is the story about Scott again, but the *main idea* sentence comes last.

Scott reads books about baseball. He also reads books about football.

He likes to read books about basketball, too. *Scott likes to*

read books about sports.

Now read this short story. Find the sentence that tells the *main idea* of the story.

(1) A hat made of wool yarn can help keep you warm in the winter.
(2) A baseball cap can help keep the sun out of your eyes. (3) Rain hats can help keep you dry when it rains. (4) There are many kinds of hats.

4. Which numbered sentence tells about the **main idea**?

- (A) 1
- (B) 2
- (C) 3
- (D) 4

The **last** sentence tells the **main idea**.
All the other sentences tell more about each of the kinds of hats.

5. What kind of hat keeps you warm in the winter?

- (A) A wool hat.
- (B) A baseball cap.
- (C) A rain hat.



