

Main Idea and Supporting Details

(Illustration, brief explanation and examples)

The main idea of a picture

What is (the main idea of) this picture?

- A. Fruit
- B. Orange
- C. Leave
- D. Round





The picture is about an orange. The main idea of the picture is orange.

What is (the main idea of) this picture?

- A. Playing basketball
- B. Basket
- C. Ball
- D. Athletes





The picture is about playing basketball. So, the main idea of the picture is 'playing basketball'

The main idea and supporting details of a sentence

Remember:

The main idea is what the sentence is about or
the topic of the sentence

An orange is
delicious and
healthy.

1. What is **the main idea** of this sentence?
2. What are the supporting details of the sentence?



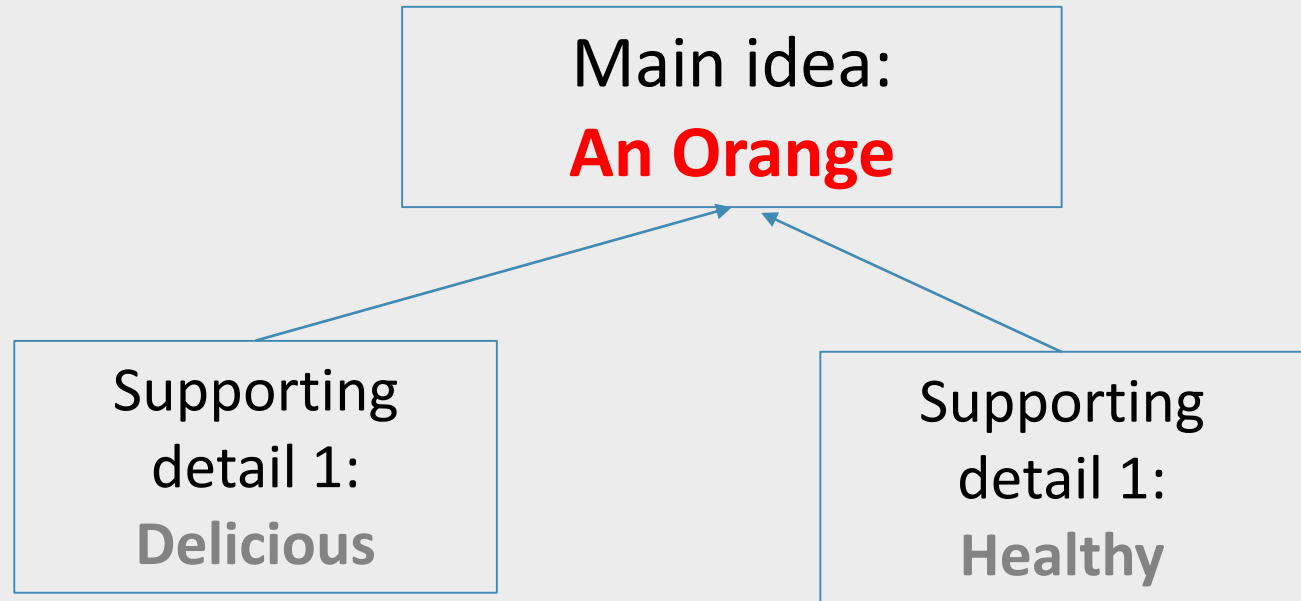
The main idea of the sentence is ORANGE.

- (The sentence talks about orange)

And, the supporting details are 'delicious' and 'healthy'

- (Delicious and healthy gives explanation about the orange)

An orange is delicious and healthy.





Playing basketball is fun
but tiring.

What is the **main idea** of the sentence? (What is the sentence about?)

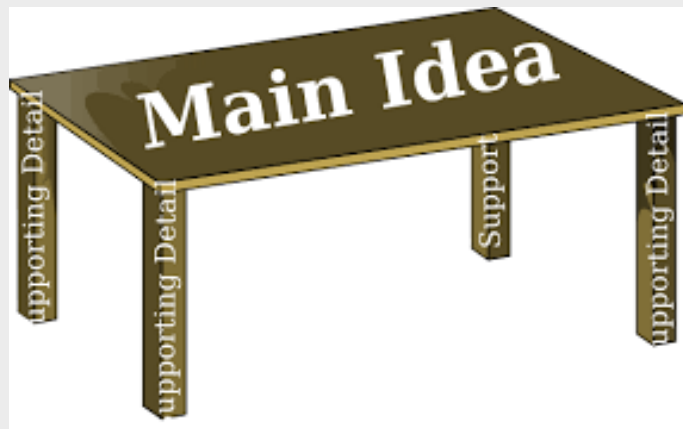
What are the **supporting details** of the sentence? (What details give explanation to the main idea?)



Playing basketball is fun but tiring.

- The **main idea** of the sentence is **playing basketball**.
(The sentence is about playing basketball).
- The supporting details that give explanation about the main idea are: **fun** and **tiring**.

So,



- MAIN IDEA is the most important idea that the author wants the reader to remember or what the text is about.
- SUPPORTING DETAILS are the points that support (describe and explain) the main idea

Main idea and supporting
details of a paragraph

Sample Paragraph

- What is the main idea?
- What are the supporting details.

Yesterday, I bought a new coat. The new coat is bright red. It has six buttons. The coat is very thick so I can stay warm during cold weather.

The main idea: New Coat

Supporting detail 1: Bright Red

Supporting detail 2: Very thick

Then, try to find the main idea and supporting details of the next paragraph.



Paragraph 1

It is easy to make a snowman. **First**, you need to stack up three balls of snow from the biggest at the bottom to the smallest at the top. **Then** you need several items for the body parts: two sticks for the arms, a carrot for the nose and small round stones for the eyes, mouth and the buttons on the chest. **Finally**, you can decorate the snowman with a hat and a piece of scarf.

Main idea: _____

Supporting detail 1: _____

Supporting detail 2: _____

Supporting detail 3: _____



Paragraph 2

The Swan is a very beautiful bird. It is generally white. It was brought from Asia and Eastern Europe into England. The Swan is very graceful in the water, but on land it is an awkward waddler.

Main idea: _____

Supporting detail 1: _____

Supporting detail 2: _____

Supporting detail 3: _____

