



Understanding the main idea

Understanding the writer's main message

Topic: English dictionaries

There are **hundreds of English dictionaries**. Some are huge. Others fit in your pocket. Some are for **special areas**, like business. Others are for **beginning, intermediate, or advanced** students. How do you choose? First, think how you will use it. Do you need one with lots of specialized words, or a small one that's easy to carry? Then go to a bookstore. **Ask which dictionary is the best for your needs. The most important thing is to get the right one.**

Main idea:

- Some English dictionaries are bigger and better than others.
- It's difficult to choose the right English dictionaries because there are so many.
- It's important to choose the right dictionary for your needs.**

How to understand the main idea

- Read everything first.
- Look for words that give the writer's opinion.
- Check the beginning and the end—the main idea is often there.

Think

What is the topic?

What is the writer's opinion about the topic?

Practice

Read this paragraph and choose the most appropriate main idea.

Topic: Learning English

It seems everyone is learning English. However, we learn it for different reasons. Some people learn English for their job. Many young people learn English at school and have no choice! Our reasons for learning English may be different. However, it's important to remember that learning should be fun. Don't worry about your mistakes—enjoy your successes!

Main idea:

- There are many different reasons why people want to learn English.
- It's important to enjoy learning English.
- Success is more important than failure.