

Part II

Reading Comprehension

Unit 5

The Subject, the Main Idea, and Support

A paragraph is a group of sentences related to one central idea. Each paragraph has three necessary parts: a subject, a main idea, and support. To find these parts, you can ask six basic questions: *who, what, where, when, why, and how*.

What is the subject?

The subject is a topic of the paragraph. To find the subject, ask *who* or *what* the whole paragraph is about.

Reading Passage

Sleeping habits change with age. A newborn baby needs 18 to 20 hours of sleep a day. An older child generally needs 12 to 14 hours a day. The average adult needs only 7 to 9 hours. Older people need the least amount of sleep. A person over 65 generally needs only 5 to 7 hours to feel well rested.

(คัดลอกจาก Lenier, Minnette. *Keys to College Success: Reading and Study improvement*, Prentice Hall, Englewoods Cliffs, N. J. 1978, P. 67)

The subject of the paragraph above is _____.

- _____ a. the problem of aging
- _____ b. the amount of sleep needed for go health
- _____ c. chances in sleep patterns with age
- _____ d. sleep

ANSWER: The subject is C.

Activity 1

Read each paragraph carefully. Then choose the best topic from the list printed below.

PARAGRAPH 1

From the earliest times men have traveled on water. They made their settlements near water, and they used it for their animals and plants. Later on, the rivers and then the seas became man's highways. Wars have been waged and treaties signed, and civilizations.

(คัดลอกจาก Gilbert, Doris Wilcox. *The Turning in Reading*, Prentice Hall, Inc. New Jersey 1969, p.26)

The best topic is: _____

- a. Rivers And Seas as Highways
- b. The Importance of Water to Man
- c. Early Man's Care of Animals and Plants
- d. Civilizations of the Past

PARAGRAPH 2

The first Americans to reach California came by water to engage in the fur trade along the coast. Later interest turned to whaling and the trade in hides and tallow. While some of these men stayed on in California, Their numbers were few. They didn't cause the Mexican officials much worry.

(คัดลอกจาก Gilbert, Doris Wilcox. *The Turning in Reading*, Prentice Hall, Inc. New Jersey 1969, p.28)

The best topic is _____.

- a. Early California Officials
- b. The Early Fur Traders of California
- c. Whaling off the California Coast
- d. The First Americans in California

What is the Main Idea?

The main idea of a paragraph is the most important thing the author wants you to know about the subject. It is expressed in a single statement which summarized all the ideas in the paragraph as well as the ideas in the supporting sentences.

Read this passage again and find the main idea.

Sleeping habits change with age. A newborn baby needs 18 to 20 hours of sleep a day. An older child generally needs 12 to 14 hours a day. The average adult needs only 7 to 9 hours. Older people need the least amount of sleep. A person over 65 generally needs only 5 to 7 hours to feel well rested.

Which is the main idea of the paragraph above?

- _____ a. Babies need more sleep than adults do.
- _____ b. Sleeping habits change with age.
- _____ c. Elderly people need little sleep.
- _____ d. Proper sleep is important for good health.

ANSWER: The main idea is b.

What is the support?

The author supports the main idea by giving details that clarify, develop, and justify it. The most common types of support for the main idea are *examples, facts, reasons, and testimony*. Examples of each type of support follow. Underline the main idea in each paragraph.

Examples: Examples illustrate the main idea. (เป็นการ support main idea โดยใช้ตัวอย่าง)

Superstitious can have a great influence on people. For instance, there are those who will turn back from the trip if a black cat crosses their path.

ประโยคแรกคือ main idea ส่วนข้อความหลังคำว่า For instance คือข้อความที่แสดงตัวอย่าง โดยที่ตัวอย่างนี้จะช่วยอธิบายข้อความใน main idea ให้ชัดเจน

Facts: Data that support the main idea may be in the form of historical facts, statistics, or scientific laws. (การ support โดยใช้ข้อมูลที่เป็นความจริง)

The largest waterfall in the world is Angel Falls in Venezuela. In fact, Angel Falls is more than fifteen times higher than Niagara.

ประโยคแรกคือ main idea ส่วนสิ่งที่กล่าวหลังคำว่า in fact คือข้อมูลที่ช่วยเสริมความหมายให้ประโยคแรกชัดเจน

Reasons: Reasons are given to justify the main idea. (การ support โดยใช้ ข้อมูลที่เป็นเหตุผล)

Unlike the American Indian, who had rain dances to bring rain, the people on the island of Java try to prevent rain. This is because the annual precipitation on Java is more than the natives want.

ประโยค main idea คือ the people on the island of Java try to prevent rain. และมีการ support ประโยค main idea ด้วยการใส่ “เหตุ” (reason) มาช่วยเสริมข้อความใน main idea ให้มีน้ำหนักและเด่นมากขึ้น

Testimony: Opinions of people other than the author are used to support the main idea.

การนำความคิดเห็นของผู้อื่นมา support ประโยค main idea

A Harvard University study in 1976 reported what is believed to be enslavement among ants. According to biologist Bert Holldobler, after territorial battles the victors drag the captives back to their nest.

ประโยคแรกคือ main idea อนุเจตน์ใช้วิธี support ด้วยการนำความคิดของผู้อื่นมา กล่าวไว้ เพื่อใช้เป็นข้อสนับสนุนความคิดของผู้เขียน

ขอให้ให้นักศึกษาอ่านอนุเจตน์เรื่อง Sleep อีกครั้งหนึ่ง แล้วพิจารณาว่าอนุเจตน์นี้ใช้วิธีการ support เรื่องแบบใดใน 4 ข้อต่อไปนี้คือ

- a. examples b. facts c. Reasons d. testimony

ANSWER: The type of support is b. (facts)

Activity 2

Finding the Main Idea

In school, children want the right to do their own thinking and to express themselves freely. They do not like to be governed by rules and regulations whose purpose they do not understand. But fundamentally neither do they like a school where there is so much freedom that there is disorder. They find fault with a teacher in whose room the children are disorderly. They also find fault with teachers who are unimaginative and a school where behavior is governed largely by understanding and good will afford the freedom that is most satisfying to both pupils and teachers.

(คัดลอกจาก Raygor, Alton L. *Reading for the main idea*, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1969, p.28)

The main idea is _____

- _____ a. Children want freedom.
- _____ b. A firm but understand teacher can stimulate children to behave properly even in their own homes.
- _____ c. Children would appreciate most a classroom in which a firm but liberal atmosphere exists.
- _____ d. Children do not like a classroom in which their teacher is extremely lenient.

Activity 3

Main idea and Support

Choose the main idea in each of the following paragraphs and write in the blank the type of support used.

PARAGRAPH 1

Many geographers now believe that 200 million years ago the east coast of South America fitted snugly into the west coast of Africa. The coasts of Norway, Scotland, and Ireland touched Greenland, and Greenland touched northern Canada. This means that the Earth once had super continent. Geologists call it Pangea.

(คัดลอกจาก Lenier, Minnette. *Keys to College Success: Reading and Study improvement*, Prentice Hall, Englewoods Cliffs, N. J. 1978, P. 81)

The main idea is _____

- _____ a. Continents can move around.
- _____ b. Geography can tell us many interesting facts.
- _____ c. Greenland was not always an island.
- _____ d. The Earth once had a supercontinent now called Pangea.

The type of support is _____

PARAGRAPH 2

Music is universal. It exists in some forms in every part of the world inhabited by man. Its existence for thousands of years is proven by references in mankind's earliest writings, pictures, and artifacts. During all this time, and in all these places, music has developed in a multitude of different ways, each expressing local culture and historical era of its creators. The seemingly endless diversity of human music is illustrated by a brief list of musical forms: symphony, aboriginal folk song, military march, rock and roll, liturgical mass, electronic music, and music of the Orient, to name only a few.

(คัดลอกจาก Lenier, Minnette. *Keys to College Success: Reading and Study improvement*, Prentice Hall, Englewoods Cliffs, N. J. 1978, P. 82)

The main idea is _____

_____ a. Some music is more sophisticated than other music.

_____ b. All cultures have music

_____ c. Music has always existed.

_____ d. music is not always written down.

The type of support is _____.

READING COMPREHENSION

Teaching is supposed to be a professional activity requiring long and complicated training as well as official certification. The act of teaching is looked upon as a flow of knowledge from a higher source to an empty container. The student's role is one of receiving information; the teacher's role is one of sending it. There is a clear distinction assumed between one who is supposed to know (and therefore not capable of being wrong) and another, usually younger person who is supposed not to know. However, teaching need not be the province of a special group or people nor need it be looked upon as technical skill. Teaching can be more like guiding and assisting than forcing information into a supposedly empty head. If you have a certain skill, you should be able to share it with someone. You do not have to get certified to convey what you know to someone else or to help them in their attempt to teach themselves. All of us, from the very youngest children to the oldest members of our cultures should come to realize our own potential as teachers. We can share what we know, however little it might be, with someone who has need of that knowledge or skill.

(คัดลอกจาก Clarke, Mark A. *Reader's Choice, The University of Michigan Press,*
1994 P. 17)

Word Study

be supposed to	= be planned or expected (ถูกกำหนดไว้หรือคาดการณ์ไว้)
professional (adj.)	= relating to a person's special training (เกี่ยวกับอาชีพ)
complicated training	= training with many parts which are difficult to understand (การฝึกอบรมแบบซึ่งกันจนเกิดความชำนาญ)
distinction (n)	= differentiation between or among things (สิ่งที่แตกต่างกัน)
province (n)	= special interest, special responsibility (หน้าที่หรือความรับผิดชอบ)
supposedly (adv.)	= imaginarily, not definitely known to be true (สมมุติ หรือคาดเดา)
potential (adj.)	= capable of developing into a particular kind of thing mention (ศักยภาพ)

Comprehension Questions

Choose the appropriate answer of the following questions.

1. The main idea of the paragraph is _____.
 - a. The author believes that it is not difficult to be a good teacher.
 - b. The author believes that every person has the potential to be a teacher.
 - c. The author believes that teaching is a professional activity requiring special training.
 - d. The author believes that teaching is the flow of knowledge from a higher source to an empty container.

2. Before one becomes a teacher, he _____.
- a. has been trained for a long time
 - b. must like children first
 - c. ought to have a technical skill
 - d. should realize his own ability to teach
3. "A higher source" (Line 3) refers to _____.
- a. good knowledge
 - b. a place for high study
 - c. one acting as a teacher
 - d. a flow of knowledge
4. "an empty container" (line 3) refers to _____.
- a. one who studies
 - b. students without knowledge
 - c. the student's brain
 - d. anything nothing in it
5. According to the passage, official certification is _____ for a teacher.
- a. not needed
 - b. needed
 - c. a member card
 - d. useless
6. Anyone who is acting as a teacher is expected _____.
- a. to have high capacity
 - b. to force information to a student
 - c. to be in a special group
 - d. not to be wrong

7. It can be inferred that all people from the youngest to the oldest _____.
- a. can be both the receivers
 - b. should care about culture
 - c. c. help one another to improve the empty-headed
 - d. should not to spend more time
8. Rather than forcing information to the receivers, a teacher should _____.
- a. guide and assist a learner
 - b. convey his knowledge to a learner
 - c. c. tell a learner to teach himself instead
 - d. d. select what should be taught and not be taught
9. According to the author, it can be inferred that anyone who has a special skill _____.
- a. could teach it to someone
 - b. must study more to be an expert
 - c. must not do wrong any more
 - d. is expected to be a leader in a group
10. According to the passage, it can be concluded that _____.
- a. the teacher's role is one of sending it
 - b. teaching is sharing what you know to someone
 - c. although we have a little knowledge, it's better than nothing
 - d. giving information to someone who needs it is much better

Grammar Points

1. Passive Voice

ประโยค passive voice (ซึ่งสัมพันธ์กับ active voice) หมายถึงประโยคที่มีโครงสร้างเป็น be + V-3 แสดงความหมายว่า ประธานเป็นผู้ถูกกระทำ ประโยคชนิดนี้นิยมใช้เมื่อต้องการเน้นสิ่งที่ถูกกระทำ หรือเมื่อไม่ต้องการแสดงว่าผู้กระทำกริยาเป็นใคร ประโยค passive ที่พบใน passage ข้างต้นก็คือ

Teaching is supposed to be a professional activity.

The act of teaching is looked upon as a flow of knowledge from a higher source to an empty container.

ประโยค passive voice กับประโยค active voice มีความสัมพันธ์ซึ่งกันและกัน โดยสามารถเขียนแสดงความหมายอย่างเดียวกัน กล่าวคือ เมื่อต้องการระบุผู้กระทำกริยา ก็ใช้ประโยค active voice แต่หากต้องการระบุผู้ถูกกระทำกริยา ก็ให้ใช้ประโยค passive voice หลักสำคัญในการเปลี่ยนจาก active voice มาเป็น passive voice มีดังนี้คือ

1. ย้ายกรรมในประโยค active voice มาเป็นประธานในประโยค passive voice
2. เติม verb to be ให้สัมพันธ์กับประธาน และให้คง tense เดิมของประโยค active
3. เปลี่ยนกริยาใน active เป็นกริยาช่อง 3
4. ย้ายประธานใน active เป็นกรรมใน passive โดยวางหลังคำบุพบท by

หมายเหตุ ประโยค active ที่จะเปลี่ยนเป็น passive voice ได้ จะต้องมิกิริยาชนิด Vt เท่านั้น ตัวอย่าง

1. Active voice: Someone has broken two of my dinner-plates.
Passive voice: Two of my dinner-plates have been broken.
2. Active voice: They recommended me another doctor.
Passive (1): I was recommended another doctor.
Passive (2): Another doctor was recommended to me.

ตัวอย่างที่ 2 แสดงวิธีเปลี่ยนเป็น passive ได้ 2 แบบ ถ้าประโยค active มีกรรม 2 ตัว จะเอากรรมตัวใดมาเป็นประธานก็ได้ แต่นิยมใช้กรรมที่เป็นบุคคล (personal object) จะดีกว่า เพราะไม่ต้องใช้บุพบทให้ยุ่งยาก (ดูประโยค passive (2) ประกอบ) แต่จะใช้ direct object เป็นประธานก็ได้ หากต้องการเน้นที่สิ่งของมากกว่าตัวบุคคล

Activity 4

Turn the following sentences into the passive voice.

1. Somebody has invited you to lunch tomorrow.

2. People will forget it in a few years' time.

3. No one has ever beaten him at tennis.

4. People must take these books away.

5. The police refused him a passport.

6. The others told the new students where to sit.

7. They asked us to be there at eight o'clock.

8. Someone taught him French and has him a dictionary.

2. How to use “Need”

2.1 The Regular Verb

a. With a noun or pronoun as its object:

e.g. Small Children need more sleep than grown-up people.

She needs a new hat, but she doesn't need new shoes.

Do you need any help?

b. With a to-infinitive as its object

e.g. Small children need to sleep longer than grown-up people.

I will not need to worry when you are away on holidays.

NB. Need ใช้เป็นกริยาที่ตามด้วย Gerund ได้ แต่จะมีความหมายว่า ประธานเป็นผู้ถูกกระทำเสมอ หรือสามารถเขียนในรูป need + to-infinitive ได้ ดังนี้

$Need + V\text{-ing} = Need + to\ be + V\text{-3}$
--

e.g. My shoes need polishing. = My shoes need to be polished.

His car needs washing. = His car needs to be washed.

2.2 The Irregular Verb

Need นอกจากจะเป็นกริยาแท้แล้ว (ดูข้อ 2.1 a , b) ยังใช้เป็นกริยาช่วยได้ โดยจะใช้ช่วยในประโยคคำถาม และประโยคปฏิเสธเท่านั้น เมื่อ **need** อยู่ในฐานะกริยาช่วย จะไม่มีการเติม s ใดๆทั้งสิ้น เช่น

She need not take your advice. (Your advice need not be taken.)

You needn't go yet, need you?

Need he go so soon?

2.3. Need used as a Noun

Need นำมาใช้เป็นคำนามได้โดยมีคำบุพบท **of** ตามหลังเสมอ ประโยคที่เห็นใน passage คือประโยคสุดท้ายดังนี้ **We can share what we know, however little it might be, with someone who has need of that knowledge or skill.**

Need of หรือ **in need of** เป็นวลีที่มีความหมายว่า อยู่ในสภาวะที่ขาดแคลนมาก และจำเป็นต้องได้สิ่งทีขาดแคลนน้นอย่างมาก เช่น

My brother was badly in need of a new place to live.

(น้องชายของฉันจำเป็นต้องหาที่อยู่ใหม่)

She is all right now; there is no need to call a doctor.

(ตอนนี้เธอสบายดีแล้ว จึงไม่จำเป็นต้องตามหมอมาอีกแล้ว)

Activity 5

Complete the following sentences by using "Need + Gerund" structure. Then convert it into "Need + infinitive" structure as in the example.

Example: His garden _____ (need tidy).

- a. His garden needs tidying.
- b. His garden needs to be tidied.

1. This car _____ (need clean).

- a. _____
- b. _____

2. Your old house _____ (need repaint).

- a. _____
- b. _____

3. His hair _____ (need cut).

- a. _____
- b. _____

4. The puncture in the front tire of my bicycle _____ (need repair).

- a. _____
- b. _____

5. Your final report _____ (need type).

- a. _____
- b. _____