



Main idea

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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The **main idea** of a paragraph is what the whole paragraph is *mostly about*.  
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As you read Uncle Ben's letter, think about the **main idea** of each paragraph.

Marco got a letter from his Uncle Ben, the airplane pilot. Uncle Ben has traveled all over the world.

Dear Marco,

London is a great city, but it usually takes me a day or two to get used to the cars driving on the "wrong" side of the road! In most places in the world, cars drive on the right side of the road (not the left side), but in London, cars drive on the left side. Even the cars are made differently there, with the steering wheel on the right side, instead of the left side.

The first place I always visit is the huge park outside Buckingham Palace. This Palace is one of the Queen of England's two homes. At the front entrance of the Palace, there is a long row of Royal Guards. The Guards stand at attention in their bright red jackets and tall black helmets. The Guards don't look at anyone or talk to anyone. You can see that they take their job very seriously.

The "Changing of the Guard" is a world famous sight. At 11:30 am, the Guards coming *on* duty take the place of those going *off* duty. The exchange takes about 45 minutes. It is exciting to watch the Guards march in perfect step to the music of a military band.

On this trip, I visited one of the newest attractions in England's capital city. It is called the London Eye. It opened in the year 2000, and it is the fourth largest Ferris wheel in the world. Instead of the usual kind of Ferris wheel cart, you ride in a large glass pod, so that you can see out in all directions. It is a good idea to buy tickets ahead of time. I did, and the line I was in was a lot shorter than the line for people who still needed to buy tickets. The ride might be a little scary at first, because the Eye is so huge, and goes up so high. It goes very slowly, though. The views of the city from the London Eye are worth the wait, even if there is a long line.

Yours truly,
Uncle Ben

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - A. Uncle Ben thinks London is a great city.
 - B. In most places in the world, cars drive on the right side of the road, not the left side.
 - C. In London, cars drive on the left side of the road.
 - D. In London, cars have the steering wheel on the right side, instead of the left side.

 2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - A. Buckingham Palace is one of the Queen of England's two homes.
 - B. At the front of the Palace there is a long row of Royal Guards.
 - C. The Guards stand at attention in their bright red jackets and tall black helmets.
 - D. The Guards take their job very seriously.

 3. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - A. The "Changing of the Guards" is a world famous sight.
 - B. At 11:30, the Guards coming on duty take the place of those going off duty.
 - C. The "Changing of the Guards" takes about 45 minutes.
 - D. The Guards march in perfect step to the music of a military band.

 4. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?
 - A. London's Eye is one of the newest attractions in London.
 - B. On London's Eye, you ride in a large glass pod.
 - C. It is a good idea to buy your tickets for London's Eye ahead of time.
 - D. London's Eye goes very slowly.

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  5. What is the main idea of Uncle Ben's letter?
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## Answer Key

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. Accept any reasonable response, such as Uncle Ben's visit to London.