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Find the Big Idea

The boxes on the left side of the page are full of ideas. Each box on the right side of the page contains a main idea. Draw a line connecting the box of ideas with its matching main idea.

Ideas

shirts	socks
shoes	pajamas

rain	fog
snow	wind

spaghetti	ice cream
cookies	apples

table	rug
sink	spoon

Main Ideas

things we find at home

weather

things we eat

things we wear

Challenge: Can you list four ideas after each of the big ideas in this list?

My favorite sports: _____

Why candy is important: _____

For Younger Students: Find clip art to represent things we find at home (e.g., articles of clothing, food, etc.). On a flannelboard, create columns or sections with headings, such as “Things We Wear,” “Things We Eat,” etc. Allow students to group the items in the appropriate sections. Explain to them that paragraphs are groupings of related ideas, too.



Sticky Glue!

Oh no! Now you left your paragraph on the table. You didn't know that your sister left sticky glue all over the table. When you picked up the paper—yuck—lots of your paragraph stayed glued to the table. Now you will have to fill in the missing parts of your paragraph.

How to Bake Cookies

Yesterday I made _____ cookies. They are really _____ . First, I mixed the dough. I stirred in some _____ and some _____ , and then I added some _____ . After that I added some _____ and stirred it until my arm was hurting. Next, I got out the _____ , and I put the dough on the _____ . I set the oven for _____ , and I baked the cookies for _____ . They smelled like _____ ! I got them out and tasted them. I gave some to _____ . Would you like some, too?

Challenge: Find some paragraphs in magazines or newspapers. Cross out some of the words and ask a partner to give you new words to use instead. Read your new paragraph aloud. Write a paragraph that is missing some parts. Exchange paragraphs with your classmates. Finish the new paragraph that was passed to you. Read the paragraphs aloud. Were the paragraphs different from what the original author intended?

For Younger Students: Provide pages with partially-written paragraphs and take dictation while helping students fill them in with their own, original ideas.