



## Pre-reading

**S** When a question asks about the **main message** of a paragraph, it is important to:

1. **compare the options** and circle any **keywords**
2. read the **topic sentence** or **concluding sentence** of the paragraph (usually the first and last sentence respectively)
3. read the **supporting details** of the paragraph quickly

e.g.

We should eat less fast food. First, most fast food is deep fried, containing too much oil. Second, it is usually too salty. Also, fast food usually includes too much meat but very few vegetables. If we eat too much fast food, we will have health problems.

In the paragraph, the writer wants us to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. add more salt into our food    B. deep fry all the food  
 C. avoid too much fast food    D. eat only vegetables

The verb phrase 'eat less' is similar to 'avoid too much' in meaning.

## Warm Up

Read the text carefully and choose the best answers for Questions 1-4.

(8 marks @ 2 marks)

1.

The sea is home to many sea animals. However, it is facing a lot of pollution problems. Many sea animals die every year because of the pollutants in the sea. The problem is very worrying. Let's support the new law and ban the discharge of wastewater into the sea!

What is the main message of the paragraph?

- A. We should use less water.  
 B. We must pass the law to protect the sea against wastewater.  
 C. There are different kinds of sea animals in the sea.  
 D. Pollutants in the sea are very worrying.

## CLASSROOM Tips



**pollutant:** something that pollutes the environment

2.

In recent years, it has become more and more popular for girls to get acrylic nails. They often go to nail salons to get their nails done. They usually choose a pattern they like and let a nail artist draw it on their nails. Girls really like to look pretty!

In the paragraph, what does the writer want us to know?

- A. Girls like to make themselves beautiful.
- B. Girls spend a lot of money on their nails.
- C. Girls often do their nails.
- D. Girls can draw different patterns on their nails.

3.

Not only does coffee taste good, but it is also good for our hearts. A recent study has shown that people who drink two to three cups of coffee a day are less likely to have heart diseases. Now, coffee lovers have a better reason to enjoy a cup of coffee in a relaxing afternoon!

What is the purpose of the paragraph?

- A. To encourage people to drink more coffee
- B. To show why people like drinking coffee
- C. To explain the health benefit of drinking coffee
- D. To tell readers the best time to drink coffee

4.

I like spring best because it is the strawberry season. From March to May, we can see a lot of strawberries for sale in the supermarket. I usually eat them with some sugar or whipped cream. I also use them to make strawberry pies or cakes.

In the paragraph, what does the writer want us to know?

- A. The writer's favourite season is spring.
- B. The writer likes strawberries very much.
- C. The writer likes to eat sweet food.
- D. The writer is good at making desserts.

Let's Practise

 10 min

Alice wrote an e-mail to Aunt Sally. Read it carefully and choose the best answers for Questions 1-4. (8 marks @ 2 marks)

25 September, 20XX

**From:** Alice <alicechan@freemail.com>

**To:** Aunt Sally <sallysally@freemail.com>

**Subject:** Computer Game in Danger!

**B** *I* U **T** **↶** **A** **T**            *I*  

Dear Aunt Sally,

How are you? Has John recovered from his leg injury?

Thank you for the computer game. My brother and I really love it and we played it every day during the last summer vacation. I always win, but my brother is getting better.

Now, we have a big trouble. Mum thinks we spend too much time playing the computer game. She's angry about this. Last week, she said, 'It isn't good for your health because you sometimes forget to eat when you play the game.' She even threatened to throw it away. We cried and begged her not to do so. Sadly, she didn't listen. We know we shouldn't spend so much time on the game. We promise we won't forget to eat our meals, leave our homework until the last minute or stay up late again. Could you please ask her not to throw it away? Please, pretty Aunt Sally! You know, I always love you!

Love,

Alice

1. What did Aunt Sally give Alice?

- A. A computer
- B. A computer game
- C. An e-mail
- D. A summer vacation

**S** 2. In paragraph 2, Alice wanted to tell Aunt Sally \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. she wanted to buy the computer game for a long time
- B. she is grateful for the computer game
- C. she plays the computer game better than her brother
- D. she plays the computer game all the time

3. What will Alice probably **NOT** do in the future?

- A. Go to bed early
- B. Eat her breakfast, lunch and dinner on time
- C. Finish her homework quickly
- D. Play the computer game every day

**CLASSROOM Tips**



**grateful:** feeling thankful for something

**S** 4. Why did Alice write the e-mail to Aunt Sally?

- A. She wanted to know if John has recovered from his leg injury.
- B. She needed to remind Aunt Sally to eat her meals on time.
- C. She hoped Aunt Sally could stop her mum from throwing the computer game away.
- D. She wanted to tell Aunt Sally she always loves her.