

Inside Reading Level 2
Unit 8 Skill Review: Finding the Main Idea

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Review Skill for Unit 8 asks you to find the main idea of specific sections in Reading 1. Let's take a look at how to do that for the excerpts below.

A Below are the sentences from Paragraph 2. Read each sentence then determine which one best expresses the main idea. Label it MI. Label the detail sentences that support it D.

1. ___ Many people assume that college freshmen pick their dormitory roommates, as upperclassmen are allowed to do.
2. ___ The converse is actually true.
3. ___ Very few colleges allow incoming freshmen any choice in dorm-room assignments.
4. ___ Students in the so-called millennial generation, in particular, are anxious about sharing a room with another person.
5. ___ Many have never shared a room at home.
6. ___ They are used to their rooms being their exclusive domains.

B Now read the excerpt below. Then circle the statement below that best expresses the main idea.

Roommate Research

For decades, residential-life offices have received late-summer telephone calls from worried students and parents. "People will read a name and address, and it fits into some category in their head," says Sarah B. Westfall, dean of students at Denison University in Ohio. They expect a diverse student body at almost any college, but many students fear diversity as much as they look forward to it. Any indication that a roommate's life deviates from the familiar can heighten a student's fear of the unknown. Online social networking sites now allow students to get more of those indications than ever before.

According to college officials, many incoming freshmen use Facebook, Orkut, QQ, and other social-networking sites, to do research on their future roommates. Since everything happens anonymously, normally passive students can spring into investigative action without having to approach a live person. On sites like these, anyone can post a profile of himself or herself free. Profiles can include photos, quotes, inside jokes, and lists of their favorite bands and TV shows. The idea is to maximize your attractiveness to people with tastes similar to yours. Facebook has more than 750 million registered users, about 70% of whom are outside the United States. Orkut has about 66 million users, mostly in Brazil and India. QQ, in China, is one of the largest social networks in the world, with more than 300 million active accounts.

1. Profiles on social-networking sites can include photos, quotes, and lists of favorite bands.
2. Because of online social networking sites, college students are able to get a lot of information about a new roommate.
3. Incoming freshmen use Facebook, Orkut, QQ, and other social networking sites.

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Answer Key

A Below are the sentences from Paragraph 2. Read each sentence. Then determine which one best expresses the main idea. Label it MI. Label the detail sentences that support it D.

1. D Many people assume that college freshmen pick their dormitory roommates, as upperclassmen are allowed to do.
2. D The converse is actually true.
3. D Very few colleges allow incoming freshmen any choice in dorm-room assignments.
4. MI Students in the so-called millennial generation, in particular, are anxious about sharing a room with another person.
5. D Many have never shared a room at home.
6. D They are used to their rooms being their exclusive domains.

B Now read the excerpt below. Then circle the statement below that best expresses the main idea.

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1. Profiles on social-networking sites can include photos, quotes, and lists of favorite bands.
2. Because of online social networking sites, college students are able to get a lot of information about a new roommate. [Design: Place circle around this statement]
3. Incoming freshmen use Facebook, Orkut, QQ, and other social networking sites.