

SKILL BUILDER ONE
REFERRING TO WHAT IS EXPLICITLY STATED
(LITERAL COMPREHENSION)

Recognizing the Main Idea
Identifying Important Details

EXAMPLE

DIRECTIONS: After reading each passage, choose the best answer for each question. Mark the letter of the answer you think is correct.

Copper, a reddish-brown metal that is obtained from several different types of ore, is ductile and malleable, and one of the best conductors of heat and electricity. The metal has been known and used longer than any other type of metal. Native Americans made use of copper long before the arrival of the first Europeans. The ancient Egyptians made many articles of copper more than seven thousand years ago. Later, the Greeks and Romans obtained this metal on what is now the island of Cyprus. In fact, the name of the island comes from the Greek word for copper.

1. Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of this passage?
 - A. Egyptians used copper.
 - B. Most copper minerals are sulfides.
 - C. The name of the island of Cyprus comes from the Greek word for copper.
 - D. Copper is a metal that has been known and used longer than any other type of metal.

2. According to the passage, copper may be characterized as
 - F. having limited use.
 - G. being an ore mixed with sulphoric acid.
 - H. being an excellent conductor of electricity.
 - J. being difficult to mold or shape.

EXERCISE A

DIRECTIONS: After reading each passage, choose the best answer for each question. Mark the letter of the answer you think is correct.

[1] The coconut palm, the tree on which the coconut grows, is the most useful of all palms. Almost every part of the plant is put to some everyday use by the people who live where it grows. It gives wood for building. Fermented and unfermented drinks are made from it, as well as alcohol and vinegar. Its leaves are used to thatch huts. Strips of coconut palm leaves called *coir* are made into baskets, ropes, hats, and brooms. Utensils such as cups, bowls, and spoons are made from the shell of the nut. Oil for food, cooking, lighting, and soap making can also be made from the nut. Coconut oil cake is used for feeding cattle and for fertilizer. In fact, it has been estimated that the coconut palm has more than 800 different uses.

On many islands in the South Pacific, the coconut palm is planted on all flat land near the sea. Natives make money for luxuries by collecting and selling the dried coconut meat, called *copra*. Thousands of tons of copra are sent to the United States and Europe each year for making soap, cooking fats, and margarine.

1. Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of the passage?
 - A. The most useful of all palm trees is the coconut palm.
 - B. Palm trees have many different varieties.
 - C. The coconut is an important export crop.
 - D. The coconut palm is best known for the coconut meat it provides.

2. According to the passage, which one of the following is specifically mentioned as a use of the coconut palm?
 - F. wood for burning
 - G. oil for painting
 - H. meat for cats and dogs
 - J. leaves for ropes