

HESI A2 Cheat Sheet

READING

Main Strategies

Identifying the **main idea, supporting details, purpose, and tone:**

- **Mark the introductory paragraph.** It will usually contain the purpose of the entire text.
- The paragraphs following the introduction usually will **contain evidence of the author's claim, and supporting details.**
- **Pay attention to the term *however*.** Authors might present the idea they are challenging before they introduce their perspective.
- The **main idea will not always be found in the introduction.** After reading the text, identify what your main take-away was. See if the idea you identified matches the options given to you.
- The authors might **repeat the purpose in the conclusion.** If you have a hard time deciding the purpose, pay close attention to the last paragraph, as it might give you a hint.
- **Underline important ideas.**
- The tone is given by the type of language used. **A formal text should not contain contractions, or abbreviations** (unless absolutely necessary).

Word meanings

The best way to discern word meanings is to utilize **context clues.**

Common types of context clues:

- **Root word and affix:** *People who study fish are ichthyologists.*
- **Contrast:** *Unlike mammals, fish usually incubate their eggs outside of their bodies.*
- **Logic:** *Some fish are predators because they hunt other fish or small aquatic animals.*
- **Definition:** *Herbivorous fish are fish that only feed on plant material, like reef algae.*
- **Example or illustration:** *Some fish lay their eggs in secluded places - they want to keep their eggs safe by making sure they are hidden.*

Fact vs. Opinion

Fact - A statement that can be proven by evidence; universally true for all people.
Eg. Diwali is celebrated on the 12th of November.

Opinion - Expresses an attitude, belief, feeling, or judgment; is neither true nor false.
Eg. Purple is the best color to wear on Diwali.

! Predictions, advice, or value judgments are all categorized as opinions.

Summarizing

- Read the text multiple times, and **underline the most important information**. This includes the main idea and purpose of the text.
- **Write down the information that is crucial from the text**. Any details that are not important can be left out.
- Pay attention to the structure. It is recommended that you maintain it. This means that you will **present the information in the order it is found in the original text**.
- **Use your own words**. Do not copy phrases directly from the source. You should rephrase as much as possible.