

## Strange Body Parts

Part 1

Sometimes, when people bang their elbows at a certain spot, they say that they hit their *funny bone*. But they hardly ever laugh. Have you ever banged your elbow? Can you recall the pain you felt? There's nothing funny about a hard bump to the funny bone!

Some people call the heart their *ticker*. Listen to the beat of your own heart. *Ticker* is a pretty good nickname for a healthy heart. It beats with a rhythm that is like the tick-tock of a clock. Put your hand on your chest or on your wrist and feel it for yourself.

Part 2

Another body part that has a strange nickname is your navel, the place at the middle of your body. Some people call their navels *belly buttons*. Navels that are flat—neither going in nor sticking out—do look something like a button. Some people have navels that stick out. Those are called *outies*.

While these nicknames are funny, there are parts of the body with real names that are interesting, too. Some names for body parts can create strange pictures in your mind. For example, look at the back of your leg, below your knee. Do you see a baby cow attached? Probably not. However, that part of your leg is called the calf, which is, of course, also the name for a young cow.

Part 3

*Pupil* is another interesting name for a body part. The word pupil can mean student, or the small, darker part in the center of your eye. It controls the amount of light that enters your eye. If you look closely at the pupil of a friend's eye, you may see your reflection. The tiny reflection looks like a doll or a puppet. That's how the pupil got its name. An old word in Latin, *pupa*, means "doll." From *pupa* came the English words "puppet" and "pupil."

(Continued on next page)

Use with page 293.

### Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 345

SAM Keyword: Main Idea



**Strange Body Parts** *(Continued)*

**Part 4** → Now picture the *hamstring* at the back of your knee. It's not really a string used to tie hams. The hamstring is a tendon. A tendon is a thick, strong band of tissue that connects muscles to bones. When the muscle moves, the tendon pulls the bone with it. Sometimes injured runners pull their hamstrings. If this has ever happened to you, you know it can be painful.

**Part 5** → It is a good thing that some parts of the body are not really what they sound like. For instance, what if *shoulder blades* were actually sharp steel blades? They wouldn't be comfortable. Your clothing would be cut, too. Imagine the noise inside your head if the *eardrum* were a real drum? Hearing a beating drum all day long would give you a headache.

When you stop to think about it, *fingernails* and *toenails* are funny words, too. Who would want to shake hands if these nails were the kind you could hammer?

**Part 6** → What about the *palm* of your hand? When you stretch out your fingers, your fingers and palm may look like the top of a palm tree. There are no bark and leaves growing on them, though.

So the next time you hurt your funny bone or notice your palm, fingernails, or bellybutton, take a moment to wonder about these strange-sounding body parts and how they got their names.

Use with page 293.

**Resource Links** RDI Book 1: p. 346

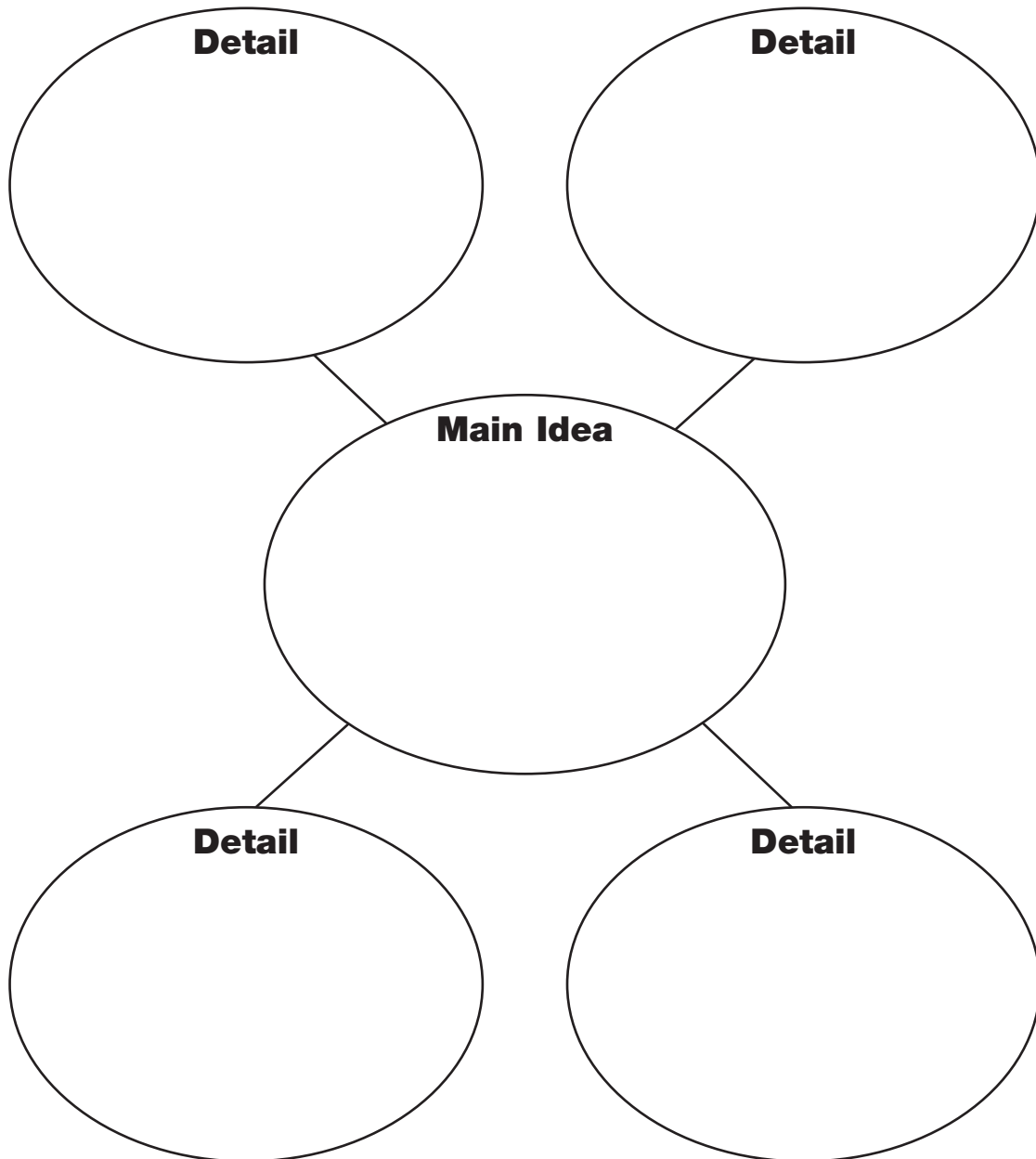
SAM Keyword: Main Idea

# Main Idea and Details

The **main idea** is the most important idea in a text. **Details** give more information to support the main idea.

Use the organizer below to write the main idea of the passage and the details that support it.

Passage: \_\_\_\_\_



Copyright © Scholastic Inc. All rights reserved.

**Resource Links**

**1** RDI Book 1: p. 397  
**SAM** Keyword: Main Idea

Use with page 293.

