

If you go to the Rehabilitation Institute in Chicago, you will see someone working to help patients. This is a job that helps people do more. It is a job that takes patience and skills. This person is a Physical Therapist. As you read what one person says about her job, imagine yourself doing this kind of work some day. How would you feel if every day you helped people make progress?

I work closely with people who have hurt themselves. Their injuries may be as mild as having a sore shoulder, knee or back, or as severe as having paralyzed legs and/or arms. It's my job to evaluate what their problems are and come up with ways to help make them better, stronger, take their pain away or teach them to walk and do things for themselves again.

I need to be able to communicate well with people of all ages and backgrounds everyday. I need to be able to talk to people I've never met and ask them personal questions that help me to understand what is wrong with them. I can't be shy around new people and I need to be clear in my communications with them.

I chose to go into physical therapy because I love to be with people and talk with them. I decided that I didn't want to use the computer all day or answer the telephone or be in a lab doing experiments. I wanted to be around people and I wanted to be an important part of helping them feel better.

To prepare to become a Physical Therapist, I had to finish college and then go to graduate school for 3 years. In that time, I learned all the muscles in the body and all the organs and how they work. I learned how to figure out what is weak and what hurts on people and then how to help. I prepared for knowing all that by taking a lot of classes in biology, chemistry, math, physics, anatomy, physiology and psychology.

What I like about my job is that it is always very interesting and never boring. I like that I am never alone but surrounded by people all the time. They tell me that I have made a difference in their lives and when I go home at night, I know that I have touched someone else's life and they appreciate the work I did for them. I also love that my job combines being active and physical with being a thinker and doing a lot of problem solving.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- a. Physical Therapists help people.
- b. Physical Therapists work hard.
- c. Physical Therapists work in hospitals.
- d. Physical Therapists use skills.

2. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

- a. My job is interesting.
- b. My job is rewarding.
- c. My job is difficult.
- d. My job is demanding.

3. What is the main idea of the entire passage?

- a. Physical therapy is a big job.
- b. Physical therapists need to know science.
- c. Physical therapy is about working with people.
- d. Physical therapy is part of every hospital.

4. What is another good title for the passage?

- a. The Work of a Physical Therapist
- b. I Love My Job
- c. Skills You Need
- d. A Difficult Job

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

How do you figure out the main idea of a nonfiction passage?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	a	b	c	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. Answers should include, look at the title, look at the kinds of information in it.