

Reading for supporting details

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Exercises for Supporting details

For numbers 1 through 5, read the paragraph. Choose the sentence that best fills the blank in the paragraph.

1. It is important to dress right for an interview because that critical first impression is all you will be able to give. _____. While image is not everything, it is important.
 - A. Look for and buy clothes that are durable and dependable
 - B. Most interviews last less than 20 minutes
 - C. Be careful not to use slang expressions
 - D. One key is to wear clothes to the interview that reflect the job you want

2. Good communication skills also require good listening skills. _____. Paraphrasing what you believe you heard back to the speaker will give the speaker a chance to know that you are listening, and it will provide both of you with an immediate opportunity to clear up any misunderstanding.
 - A. Using obscene language is a sure way to make people angry.
 - B. Most mix-ups in communications are a result of inattentive listening.
 - C. You should be sure to speak loudly and clearly to be heard.
 - D. A generous smile communicates a warm personality.

3. Many “stomach viruses” are really not caused by a virus at all. The complaints of diarrhoea, cramps, and fever are frequently the result of the various aspects of improper food handling. _____.
 - A. Keeping mayonnaise out in the heat too long will have the same result.
 - B. The best way to avoid those problems is to be scrupulously clean, and store and cook foods properly.
 - C. It is very dangerous to cut up raw meat and then prepare vegetables on the same cutting board without thoroughly scrubbing the cutting board first.
 - D. Undercooked meats are notorious for causing severe gastrointestinal problems.

4. It can be difficult to know if you are suffering from the common cold, or the flu. Each can cause fatigue and weakness. Symptoms for each can include a stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat, chest discomfort, and a cough. _____.
- A. However, a cold sufferer rarely has a high fever, or headache, nor does a cold suffer experience extreme exhaustion from his malaise
 - B. However, both of them can make you feel miserable.
 - C. Antiviral medications may be prescribed by your doctor for the flu.
 - D. The flu's complications are more serious than those from a cold, and could even turn out to be life threatening.
5. _____. Typing www.osha.gov on your Internet address bar will allow you discover the answer to questions you may have about safety for your work environment. Industry standards are outlined with links to specific standard information.
- A. OSHA requires employers to furnish employees with a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees.
 - B. There are different rules relating to the different aspects of welding in shipyards, industry, and construction.
 - C. The Federal Government leaves on-the-job safety up to the employer.
 - D. Federal rules only apply to major industry.

For questions 6 through 10, choose the answer that best develops the topic sentence.

6. Knowing how fires burn is the key to putting them out.
- A. Dry Christmas trees are the most frequent cause of home fires during the Christmas season. One should keep them watered.
 - B. Grease fires are caused by grease getting too hot and splattering out of the pan. The pan then catches on fire.
 - C. Most fires are caused by man's carelessness. The best way to stop fires is to educate people to be more careful.
 - D. Fires require heat sufficient to cause combustion, fuel, and oxygen. If you take any one of those away the fire will die.
7. Being computer literate has become important in today's job market.
- A. Now that everyone has an opportunity to go to school and get a high school diploma, society has come up with a new way to distinguish the social ranks.
 - B. Only the wealthy can afford to have computers, so they are the only ones who can learn how to use them. So, the rich stay rich, and the poor get poorer.
 - C. People without computer proficiency will end up with lower paying employment because computers have become the backbone of today's economy.
 - D. Computers are so complicated that they are hard to learn how to use. So you really have to be brilliant to use them.

8. Adopting a dog should be as carefully considered a decision as having a child.
- A. Both need loving companionship, food, shelter, medical care, exercise and stability. Both are totally dependent on you.
 - B. Cats are easy to take care of and don't demand a lot of attention. On the other hand, dogs are more friendly and loyal.
 - C. Dogs are great companions for children and teach children a sense of responsibility. A dog will also protect your child from strangers.
 - D. Some dogs are better behaved and easier to get along with than some children are.
9. Dandelions are an underrated flower.
- A. Dandelions grow almost everywhere. Dedicated gardeners spend much time and energy to remove them.
 - B. Dandelions don't have as lovely a fragrance as a rose. They are not so fragile as violet is either.
 - C. They do not require a lot of dedicated care to bloom, and children can make them into happy bouquets for moms.
 - D. Dandelions were so named because the petals are shaped like the teeth of a lion.

Read the following messages and decide which sentences in the paragraphs are not good supporting ideas.

Leaving home

Going away to university is always a tricky time, both for the students who are leaving home and their parents who are staying behind. We got advice on how to cope from a student daughter and her dad.

A daughter's advice to parents, by Kerry Price

My parents drove me to university at the beginning of the first term. That was great, but then they hung around, so it was hard to chat to the people in the rooms near mine. It's best if you leave us to unpack ourselves. Don't ask us to come home during term time. There's a lot going on at weekends, there just isn't time. Get another interest or a pet if you feel lonely without us. **Pets are adorable creatures.** Don't make us feel guilty about leaving home!

It is quite interesting to hear about your experiences at university but remember that it was a LONG time ago so don't go on about it so much. Things have changed a lot. Now we have a lot more debt and it'll be harder to find a job in the future. **There are many jobs out there.**

Please don't check up on us or our friends on Facebook. Facebook is fun. I know it's a public site, but we have the right to some privacy.

Don't change anything in our bedrooms. We have only half left home - we'll be back in the holidays, so please don't touch anything. We'd still like to come on family holidays with you. Don't forget to include us just because we're not there all the time. Holidays cost a lot at times.

A father's advice to students, by Stuart Price

Don't complain so much about how much work you have to do. We work a lot too. Laziness does not pay. You're an adult now, get used to it.

Put up with the fact that we refused to get a pet while you were at home, then suddenly obtained one as soon as you moved out. We miss you!

Just because you're at university studying very complex subjects, it doesn't mean that you're more intelligent than everybody else. Don't treat your family as if they were stupid; we're really not. Family members are important. Let us come and visit you now and again. We promise to try not to embarrass you in front of your friends. We just want to see you for a short time and take you out for a meal.

Don't waste so much time on Facebook. You need time for all that work you have to do, remember?

We might make a few changes to your room, so deal with it. It's great to have a guest room at last, but we won't change things too much, promise. We need to appreciate our guests.

Don't forget to call home from time to time and don't get annoyed if we phone you. Communication is a two-way process. It's not pestering. If we didn't call, you wouldn't know that we care.

Distinguishing relevant and irrelevant ideas

To distinguish relevant from irrelevant information~ follow these steps:

- Identify the main topic of the material.
- Determine which supporting ideas are directly related to the topic.
- Identify sentences or ideas that do not seem to be related to the main topic.
- Sort through the information you think might not be relevant. Try to connect it to the main topic.
- If you cannot make a connection, then it is probably irrelevant.

A) Determining Relevant and Irrelevant Information in a Passage

One of the sentences in the paragraph is irrelevant to the main idea of the paragraph. Cross out the irrelevant sentence.

* * *The longest-lived creature in the insect world is the queen termite (ant). She has been known to live for over 50 years. During that time, the queen can lay over 30,000 eggs each day. So in her 50 years of life, it is possible for her to give birth to half a billion children. **~~Some termite hills can be over six meters high.~~**

* * * For many years, all books were written by hand. Because it took so long to write one book, there were only a few of them. Most people could never own a book. Then sometime between 1450 and 1460, Johannes Gutenberg got the idea of carving separate letters and moving them to make new words. **~~Gutenberg died at the age of 68.~~** This was the invention of moveable type. From then on, the numbers of books printed grew quickly.

* * * The solar system is believed to have formed, perhaps 5 billion years ago, from a spinning cloud of gas called a nebula. As this nebula contracted it began to spin faster and faster. Probably it spun off rings of planetary matter as it became more disk-like. These rings later contracted into planets. **~~Earth is the third planet from the Sun.~~**

* * * **~~Some people do not know that the whale is a mammal just like a human.~~** Humpback whales will sometimes leap clear up out of the water, an act known as breaching. A humpback whale can weigh thirty tons and measure 15 meters in length. So it takes an enormous amount of energy for a whale to breach.

* * * The largest organ in the human body is the skin. One of the skin's functions is to help regulate the amount of body heat that flows in and out of the body. ~~Heavy smoking ages skin very quickly.~~ When it is cold, we cover the skin with extra layers of clothing to slow down the outward flow of heat. When it is hot, evaporation of sweat cools us down.

* * * The largest set of wings on any bird, more than three meters across, is found on the albatross. They are so heavy that it is difficult for the albatross to flap them in order to take off and fly. ~~Not all large birds can fly.~~ Albatross often nest on steep cliffs so that they can simply fall off into the air. Once they are airborne, they soar gracefully. Lake Baikal in central Asia is the deepest lake in the world. In places, it is 1.5 kilometres deep. The lake contains about one sixth of the world's fresh water supply. It contains over 1200 species of animals and 500 species of plants. ~~Many of these plants and animals are not to be found anywhere else on earth.~~ The name Baikal comes from the Mongolian word that means 'nature'.

* * * Ice floats on water because it is not quite as dense as water is. ~~The chemical formula for water is H₂O.~~ If ice were denser than water, then lakes and other bodies of water would freeze from the bottom up during the winter. Fish would surface and eventually die.

* * * Bats are able to manoeuvre in the dark even if they are blindfolded. However, if their ears are taped shut they cannot find their way. Bats emit very high pitched sound waves through their nostrils. The reflection of these sound waves reaching their sensitive ears enables bats to avoid obstacles. In this way they can capture even very tiny insects. ~~Many bats prefer to eat fruit than insects.~~

* * * The cheetah, which is found mostly in Africa and India, is one of the fastest land animals. ~~Cheetahs, like leopards, are covered in spots.~~ They have long and muscular legs. Cheetahs have been known to sprint at a speed of over 60 miles per hour. On a long distance run, however, a cheetah can be overtaken by a horse.

* * * It is estimated that the temperature of the inner core of the planet earth is between four and five thousand degrees Celsius. ~~In some parts of the world, Fahrenheit is the unit used to measure temperature.~~ Lava, the molten rock that flows down the sides of an erupting volcano, is much cooler. Even so, fresh lava is hot enough to emit light. A night view of an erupting volcano is a spectacular sight.

* * * The elephant is about as heavy as a land animal can be. The larger an animal is, the larger the diameter of its legs. An antelope has slender legs. A horse's legs are somewhat thicker and those of an elephant are even thicker. If the elephant were much larger, its legs would touch one another and it wouldn't be able to move at all. ~~Indian elephants have smaller ears than African elephants.~~

B) Irrelevant sentence

Read the paragraphs below and identify the sentence that does not fit in each.

- 1- (I) Science is systematic because of the attention it gives to organizing knowledge and making it readily accessible to all who wish to build on its foundation. (II) If the results support the hypothesis, the scientist may use them to generate related hypothesis. (III) In this way science is both a personal and a social endeavour. (IV) In other words, it is beneficial both to the individual and to society at large. (V) Therefore, science contributes a great deal to the improvement and the quality of human life.
- 2- (I) As people age, the amount of water in the body decreases. (II) Since many drugs dissolve in water and since less water is available to dilute them, these drugs reach higher level of concentration in the elderly. (III) Also, the kidneys are less able to excrete drugs into the urine, and the liver is less able to metabolize many drugs. (IV) For these reasons, many drugs tend to stay in an elderly person's body much longer than they would in a younger person's body. (V) People in every civilization in recorded history have used drugs of plant and animal origin to prevent and treat disease.
- 3- (I) Many Romantic writers in Europe were preoccupied with the fact and idea of revolution. (II) For instance, in the early period of French Revolution, all the leading English Romantic were in sympathy with it. (III) In fact, they were among its most fervent adherents. (IV) Through the greater part of the eighteenth century, man had been viewed a limited being in strictly ordered and essentially unchanging world. (V) Later, even after the first enthusiastic expectations had been disappointed by the events in France, the younger writers felt that its example still constituted humanity's best hope.

- 4- (I) Modern Bergama is a sleepy agricultural market town in the midst of a well-watered plain. (II) There has been a town here since Trojan times. (III) Of Bergama's four main tourists attractions, only the museum is in centre of the town. (IV) However, it was during the period between Alexander the Great and the Roman domination that Bergama, then called Pergamum, enjoyed its greatest prosperity. (V) At that time, it became one of the Middle East's richest and most powerful small kingdoms.
- 5- (I) Seismic waves are the vibrations from earthquakes that travel through Earth. (II) The Richter magnitude scale was developed in 1935 by Charles F. Richter of the California Institute of Technology to compare the intensity of earthquakes. (III) They are recorded on instruments called seismographs. (IV) Seismographs record a zigzag trace that shows the varying amplitude of ground oscillations beneath the instrument. (V) Sensitive seismographs, which greatly magnify these ground movements, can detect strong earthquakes from sources anywhere in the world.
- 6- (I) In the fall of 2000 and the winter of 2001, Britain was beset by a series of problems. (II) In September 2000, rising oil prices prompted protests by truck drivers and farmers who demanded a reduction in the fuel tax. (III) In November 2000, a series of unusually severe rainstorms and tornadoes caused high flooding and killed 12 people. (IV) In June 2001, Blair won a second landslide victory, with the Labor Party capturing 413 seats in Parliament. (V) In February 2001, foot-and-mouth disease broke out among British livestock, prompting other countries to ban British meat import and forcing the slaughter of thousands of cattle, pigs and sheep.