

Supporting Details and Transitional Words and Phrases Exercise

Determine whether each of the following statements is true or false.

1. Supporting details expand on the main idea of a paragraph.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. Minor details are essential to understanding the main idea.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. The ability to distinguish major from minor details is useful in pulling out the most important information in a text to study.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. Transitional words and phrases that show additional information are “also,” “in addition,” “and,” and “furthermore.”
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. Transitional words and phrases that show contrast are “therefore,” “consequently,” and “in conclusion.”
 - A. True
 - B. False
6. In the following paragraph, identify the supporting detail:

Water has no traditional value, yet it is a very important food component. It is used to transport nutrients to the cells and to remove cellular waste products. In addition, it acts as a medium for digestion, regulates body temperature, and helps cushion the vital organs.

- A. Water transports nutrients to the cells and removes cellular waste.
- B. Water acts as a medium for digestion.
- C. Water regulates body temperature.
- D. Water helps cushion the vital organs.
- E. All of the above.

7. Read the following passage and choose the correct major supporting detail below:

The next time that you see a rainbow, stop for a moment. The rainbow that you see is a unique result of refraction and dispersion. Notice that the sun is at your back and that you are facing the rainbow. The sunlight coming from behind you strikes the raindrops, is refracted and dispersed into its color, and then the light is reflected back to you. The beautiful arch of color you are seeing is yours alone. Even a person standing next to you sees a slightly different rainbow because the light is bouncing back to that person at a different angle.

- A. The next time you see a rainbow, stop for a moment.
- B. The rainbow that you see is a unique result of refraction and dispersion.
- C. Notice that the sun is at your back and that you are facing the rainbow.
- D. The sunlight coming from behind you strikes the raindrops, is refracted and dispersed into its color, and then the light is reflected back to you.

For the following, answer either True or False:

8. Transitional words and phrases that show contrast are “and,” “also,” “therefore,” and “in conclusion.”
- A. True
 - B. False
9. After the word “because,” you can expect an explanation.
- A. True
 - B. False
10. The words “first,” “second,” “third,” and “finally” indicate that the author is arranging the text in time or sequential order.
- A. True
 - B. False