

Intermediate Reading Course. Section 1: The Basics

Practice 1. Identifying general and specific Ideas

In this exercise, you will practice recognizing general and specific concepts. This is a necessary skill when reading a paragraph because you must distinguish general topics and main ideas from the details.

Instructions. Use what you have learned in the lesson about [the anatomy of a paragraph](#). In this exercise, you will see groups of words and phrases. One of them refers to a general concept or idea while the others are specific ideas related to it. Identify the **general idea**.

For example, in “bananas, apples, fruit, pears” the general idea is “fruit” while the others are specific types of fruit.

Group 1: guitar – piano – flute – instrument

General idea: _____

Group 2: beverage – coffee – iced tea – lemonade

General idea: _____

Group 3: strawberries and cream – apple pie – ice cream – dessert

General idea: _____

Group 4: device – laptop – smartphone – tablet

General idea: _____

Group 5: necklace – jewelry – diamond ring – bracelet

General idea: _____

Group 6: chess – monopoly – checkers – game

General idea: _____

Group 7: foot – hand – body part – chest

General idea: _____

Group 8: brick – material – wood – steel

General idea: _____

Group 9: ideology – liberalism – socialism – conservatism

General idea: _____

Group 10: carbon – oxygen – hydrogen – element

General idea: _____

Group 11: poetry – genre – drama – novel

General idea: _____

Group 12: addition – multiplication – division – operation

General idea: _____

Answer Key

Group 1: guitar – piano – flute – instrument

General idea: instrument

Group 2: beverage – coffee – iced tea – lemonade

General idea: beverage

Group 3: strawberries and cream – apple pie – ice cream – dessert

General idea: dessert

Group 4: device – laptop – smartphone – tablet

General idea: device

Group 5: necklace – jewelry – diamond ring – bracelet

General idea: jewelry

Group 6: chess – monopoly – checkers – game

General idea: game

Group 7: foot – hand – body part – chest

General idea: body part



Group 8: brick – material – wood – steel

General idea: material

Group 9: ideology – liberalism – socialism – conservatism

General idea: ideology

Group 10: carbon – oxygen – hydrogen – element

General idea: element

Group 11: poetry – genre – drama – novel

General idea: genre

Group 12: addition – multiplication – division – operation

General idea: operation

