

## Intermediate Reading Course. Section 1: The Basics

### Main Ideas and Supporting Details

#### Activity 1

In this exercise, you will practice distinguishing general and specific concepts. This skill is necessary to distinguish between general and specific ideas when reading a paragraph (that is, distinguishing main ideas from details).

**Instructions.** So far in this course, you have learned about [paragraphs](#) and [main ideas and supporting details](#). In this exercise, you will see groups of words and phrases. One of them refers to a general concept while the others are specific ideas related to it. Your task is to identify the **general idea**.

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

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**Group 1:** volleyball – swimming – sports – soccer

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 2:** adjectives – parts of speech – adverbs – transitive verbs

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 3.** profession – teaching – website design – research

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 4:** anger – love – fear – emotions

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 5:** French – Danish – Spanish – European languages



**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 6:** Hawaii – California – American states – Texas

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 7:** Paris – Tokyo – Ottawa – capital cities

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 8:** bicycles – buses – means of transportation – cargo ships

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 9:** clothes – shirts – pants – dresses

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 10:** dogs – birds – pets – cats

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 11:** comma – punctuation – question mark – colons

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group 12:** computer parts – mice – hard drives – monitors

**General idea:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Answer Key

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**Group 1:** volleyball – swimming – sports – soccer

**General idea:** sports

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**Group 2:** adjectives – parts of speech – adverbs – transitive verbs

**General idea:** parts of speech

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**Group 3:** profession – teaching – website design – research

**General idea:** profession

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**Group 4:** anger – love – fear – emotions

**General idea:** emotions

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**Group 5:** French – Danish – Spanish – European languages

**General idea:** European languages

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**Group 6:** Hawaii – California – American states – Texas

**General idea:** American states

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**Group 7:** Paris – Tokyo – Ottawa – capital cities

**General idea:** capital cities



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**Group 8:** bicycles – buses – means of transportation – cargo ships

**General idea:** means of transportation

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**Group 9:** clothes – shirts – pants – dresses

**General idea:** clothes

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**Group 10:** dogs – birds – pets – cats

**General idea:** pets

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**Group 11:** comma – punctuation – question mark – colons

**General idea:** punctuation

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**Group 12:** computer parts – mice – hard drives – monitors

**General idea:** computer parts

