ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Identifying supporting details

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

This document was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Overview of the concept

This is how you pick out the facts that actually back up a main point in an article or a report, instead of getting distracted by side details. A good argument is built on details that support its main idea, and the rest is decoration or distraction. Knowing how to find them helps you write stronger essays, read a news article critically, and tell whether a claim in an ad or a report is actually backed up by evidence.



© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q **Find a supporting detail for: Dogs need care. Passage: Dogs need food, water, exercise, and love. Owners feed them daily.**

SOLUTION

State the main idea: dogs need care.

Look for a fact that proves it: owners feed them daily.

So a supporting detail is: owners feed dogs daily.

EXAMPLE 2

Q **Find a supporting detail for: Bees help plants. Passage: Bees collect nectar, make honey, and pollinate flowers.**

SOLUTION

State the main idea: bees help plants.

Look for a fact that proves it: bees pollinate flowers.

So a supporting detail is: bees pollinate flowers.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Practice questions

1 Find a supporting detail for: Wolves hunt in packs. Passage: Wolves hunt together, share food, and protect each other.

- **A** Wolves hunt together
- **B** Wolves share food
- **C** Wolves protect each other
- **D** Wolves howl at the moon

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 The main idea is 'Exercise is healthy'. The detail says 'It makes your heart stronger'. Does the detail support the main idea?

- **A** Yes
- **B** No

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

3 Read the passage. Which detail tells you WHY the moon lights the night? Passage: The moon reflects sunlight, rises at night, and changes shape through the month.

- A The moon reflects sunlight
- B The moon rises at night
- C The moon changes shape through the month
- D The moon is made of cheese

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 Main idea: Exercise is healthy. Detail: Leo owns a blue bike. Is this a supporting detail?

- A Yes
- B No

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

5 **Read the passage. Which sentence is the MAIN IDEA, not a supporting detail? Passage: Snow covers the hills, makes slopes slippery, and stays cold all winter.**

- **A** Snow covers the hills
- **B** Snow makes slopes slippery
- **C** Snow stays cold all winter
- **D** The hills are covered with snow in winter

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **Read the passage. Which detail is NOT in the passage? Passage: Worms dig tunnels, mix the soil, and eat dead leaves.**

- **A** Worms dig tunnels
- **B** Worms mix the soil
- **C** Worms eat dead leaves
- **D** Worms hide from birds

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

7 The detail is 'Maps show roads and towns'. What main idea does it support?

- **A** Maps help travellers
- **B** Maps are old
- **C** Travellers like ice cream
- **D** Roads are long

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 Read the passage. Which detail does NOT tell you what good teachers do when a student asks something? Passage: Good teachers answer questions, give examples, and check understanding.

- **A** Good teachers give examples
- **B** Good teachers answer questions
- **C** Good teachers check understanding
- **D** Good teachers mark homework

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

9

The main idea is 'Maps help travellers'. Which new detail could be ADDED to support it?

A Sam likes ice cream

B Maps show where rivers are

C Maps are made of paper

D Travellers carry bags

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

10 **Buses carry many people, run on set routes, and cut traffic. Which two details BOTH support the main idea 'Buses help the city'?**

A Buses carry many people and are painted yellow

B Buses run on set routes and cut traffic

C Buses are painted yellow and run on set routes

D Buses cut traffic and are painted yellow

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

ANSWER KEY

1. Wolves hunt together
2. Yes
3. The moon reflects sunlight
4. No
5. The hills are covered with snow in winter
6. Worms hide from birds
7. Maps help travellers
8. Good teachers mark homework
9. Maps show where rivers are
10. Buses run on set routes and cut traffic

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.