Larbi Ben M'hidi University- Oum El Bouaghi
Department of English
Course Title: READING
Level: First Year-LMD
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SUPPORTING DETAILS

Objective: The students will find **the supporting details**.

1. Definition

A paragraph contains facts, statements, examples-specifics which guide us to a full understanding of the main idea. They clarify, illuminate, explain, describe, expand and illustrate the main idea and are **supporting details**.

2. Kinds of Supporting Details

a. Facts are statements from reliable sources about real things.

Example: With fewer cars on the road, there would be less air pollution and traffic noise; therefore, the use of mass transportation should be encouraged.

b. Reasons are details that tell why an opinion is valid or an event occurs.

Example: There are three reasons why Canada is one of the best countries in the world. **First, Canada has an excellent health care system.** *All Canadians have access to medical services at a*

reasonable price. **Second, Canada has a high standard of education.** *Students are taught by well-trained teachers and are encouraged to continue studying at university.* **Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed.** *Canadian cities have many parks and lots of space for people to live.* As a result, Canada is a desirable place to live.

b. Comparisons in which one thing is shown to be like another.

Example: Skilled college students are like the unskilled students in their desire for a diploma.

c. Contrasts in which one thing is shown to differ from another.

Example: Skilled students are different from unskilled students in that they use a method to read a textbook.

d. Statistics are facts expressed in numbers, based on data from samples and populations.

Example: 75 percent of the students who do not attend class regularly receive grades of C or worse.

e. Examples are ways of illustrating your point so that it is better understood.

Example: In the following paragraph, the writer includes examples of mistreatment to support the claim that women's right to vote was "hard-won".

Women's right to vote is a relatively new and hard-won privilege. The suffragists, who demonstrated for their cause in front of the White House in 1917, were incarcerated and tortured. **For example, the prison guards beat Lucy Burn and left her hanging all night, her hands cuffed to a bar above her head. They also threw Doris Lewis headlong into a cell, smashing her head into an iron bed.** For weeks, while imprisoned, these women were fed only worm-infested slop. **When one of their leaders, Alice Paul, began a hunger strike in protest of the treatment they were receiving, prison personnel tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat, and poured liquid into her until she vomited.** She was tortured like this for weeks. These women endured torture on behalf of an entire class of human beings who were denied the right to vote. Women of today owe this right to the courageous suffragists who preceded them.

f. Quotations from authorities

Example: Professor Smity admits, "I tell students they don't need to attend my class if they don't want to. I know, however, that if they don't come, they won't pass."

g. Vivid Descriptions

Example: The students took the exam from the professor's hand, quickly looked at the grade, gave a sigh or relief and began to smile.

Practice 1: *Read the two topic sentences below. Then read the list of supporting sentences. Match each supporting sentence with the corresponding topic sentence by writing the correct topic sentence number beside the supporting sentences. Notice that each sentence is labeled in parentheses with the kind of supporting sentence that it is.*

Topic sentences

TS 1: Low-fat diets are an excellent way to stay healthy and trim.

TS 2: High-protein diets are favored by athletes and competitors.

Supporting sentences

a. These foods help build muscles and increase energy. (fact)

b. They are preferred by the general public because they help with weight reduction. (reason)

c. Low-fat diets are recommended by most physicians. (fact)

d. Many athletes eat high-protein foods, such as meat, beans, and nuts. (example)

e. Low-fat foods include fruits, vegetables, and pasta. (example)

f. Because they are easy to find in stores, low-fat foods are convenient. (reason)

g. Athletes generally eat high-protein diets to give them more energy. (reason)

h. Crispy steamed vegetables and grilled fish and chicken are all tasty parts of a low-fat, heart-friendly diet. (description)

Practice 2: *Identify the supporting details in each of the following paragraphs.*

A Great Tourist Destination

New York and Boston attract millions of tourists, but I think one of the best cities to visit on the east coast of the United States is Washington, D.C. It has some of the most interesting landmarks and tourist spots in the country. There are many monuments to visit, such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and the Washington Monument, which is the tallest building in Washington. For more excitement, the area called Georgetown in northwest Washington is famous for its shopping and restaurants. Finally, there is the White House tour. On this tour, the guide leads visitors as they walk through many of the rooms in the White House and view the home of the president of the United States. Although Washington, D.C., does not have the large number of visitors that New York or Boston does, I think this city is one of the best destinations for tourists.

The Grand Palace in Bangkok

The Grand Palace is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Thailand. The construction of the palace began in 1782, and the royal family lived there until 1925. The palace area consists of over two million square feet, and the wall that surrounds the Grand Palace is

more than 6,000 feet long. This huge area includes countless buildings, gardens, and special rooms. The public cannot visit all of these areas, however, because some areas are still used for official events. The palace includes some examples of European influence on the design, such as the Greek columns and the French windows. It is certainly easy to understand why so many tourists visit the Grand Palace each year.

Refernces:

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