

LESSON

12

Essential and Nonessential Information

**WORDS
TO KNOW**

Essential information information that connects directly to a story or topic

Nonessential information information that is not important to a story or topic

Review It!

Read these sentences. Use the Hint to help you figure out which information is nonessential.

Fish can swim very fast. Their speed is important because it helps them catch prey. Speed also allows them to avoid predators. Some fish live in tropical waters.

Hint The main point of the passage is that speed in the water is important to a fish's survival. Only one sentence does not relate directly to that idea. Which is it?

Try It!

Read this advertisement. As you read, underline essential information and circle nonessential information.

- 1 **Shop at Backpacks Unlimited!**
- 2 **Backpack Sale—50% Off**
- 3 Large backpacks with adjustable straps
- 4 Convenient pockets
- 5 Huge selection of camping tents
- 6 Zippered main compartment
- 7 Waterproof
- 8 Lightweight
- 9 Excellent basketballs available

Now, use the advertisement to answer the questions on the following page.

1. Which four lines contain essential information?

A. 1, 2, 3, 4	C. 4, 5, 6, 7
B. 1, 2, 3, 5	D. 3, 4, 6, 9

2. Which line contains the most essential piece of information in the advertisement?

A. 2	C. 7
B. 1	D. 5

3. Why is the information in line 9 nonessential?
 - A. It tells about a kind of ball.
 - B. A person might not want basketballs.
 - C. All basketballs are excellent.
 - D. It doesn't relate directly to the subject of the ad.

4. In which situation would the information in line 5 be essential?
 - A. if it were more interesting
 - B. if more campers carried tents in their backpacks
 - C. if the tents were accessories that attached to backpacks
 - D. if the ad were about a tent sale

In Your Own Words

5. Write one more line of essential information to include in this advertisement.



2.

What must a reader know before deciding to take advantage of the sale?

3.

Does the information relate to the rest of the ad?

5.

What else would a reader need to know about the sale?