

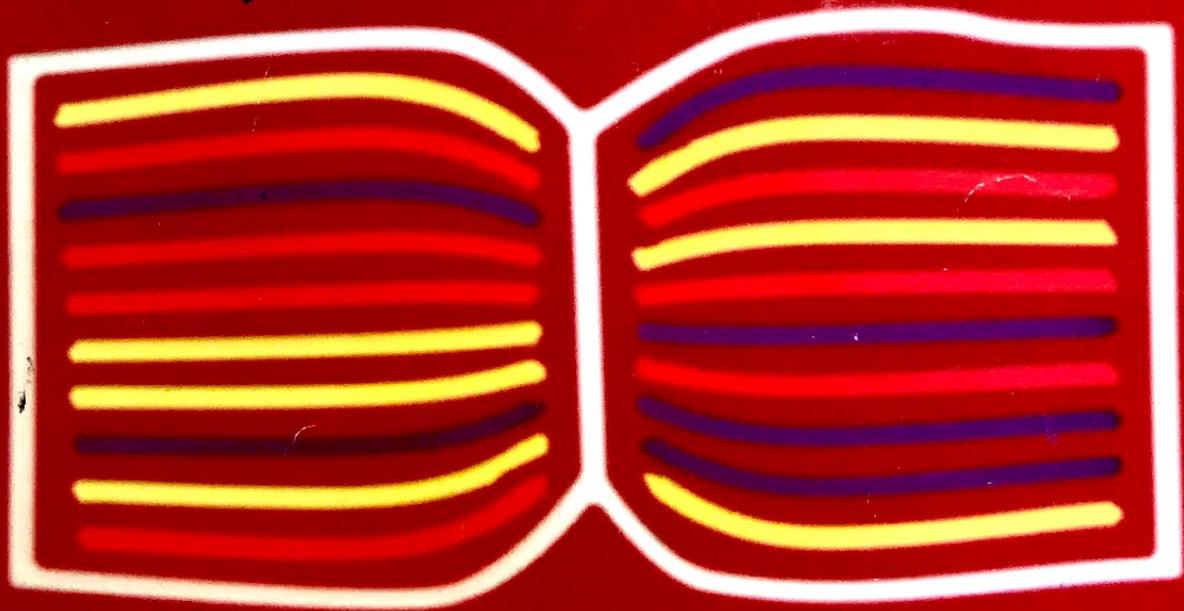
TEACHER'S  
COPY

SECOND EDITION

# READING POWER

Reading for Pleasure • Comprehension Skills  
Thinking Skills • Reading Faster

BEATRICE S. MIKULECKI and LINDA JEFFRIES





*Meaning of words*

**Exercise 6**

➤ *In the following sentences there is a word you probably do not know. Use the context to guess the general meaning of the word. Write the general meaning in English.*

1. The kettle was always on the stove. Now Polly filled it with water and turned on the stove. She wanted to make some tea.

What is a "kettle"?

---

2. Marjorie liked to knit a lot. She knitted warm wool sweaters for her children. She knitted socks and hats, too.

What does "knit" mean?

---

3. A lot of Greek art shows nude men and women. The Greeks believed that the human body was beautiful. They wanted to show the human body in their art.

What does "nude" mean?

---

4. That's not true! You're a liar. You didn't see a fish in the swimming pool. It's not possible! There aren't any fish in the swimming pool!

What is a "liar"?

---

5. George was standing by the closed door. He was very tired, so he started to lean against the door. Suddenly, the door opened and George almost fell into Lily's arms.

What does "lean" mean?

---

6. That poor horse is lame. Last year he stepped in a hole and broke his leg. Now he is better, but he still can't run.

What is a "lame" horse?

---

➤ *Now check the meanings of the words in a dictionary.*



**Exercise 7**

*Practice will help*

➤ **For each item, guess the general meaning of the word from the context. Write the general meaning in English.**

1. When the war started, many people left Rwanda. They lived in big refugee camps in Zaire and Burundi. Life was hard for the refugees in these camps.

What is a "refugee"?

---

2. I bought a new stamp for my brother. In his free time, he likes to collect stamps. He has stamps from all over the world.

What does "collect" mean?

---

3. Mr. Hudson's secretary was a very thorough person. He always did his work carefully, and he never forgot anything.

What is a "thorough" person?

---

4. Don't eat that bread! It's old and stale. We'll give it to the birds. Here's some fresh bread for our sandwiches.

What is "stale" bread?

---

5. Timmy's clothes were full of purple stains. It happened every time he drank grape juice. Some juice always fell on his shirt and pants.

What is a "stain"?

---

6. Mrs. Sweeny was ready to retire from her job. She was 65 years old, she was tired of working, and she wanted to have more time at home.

What does "retire" mean?

---

➤ **Now check the meanings of the words in a dictionary.**



## Reading Comprehension Skills

### Exercise 8

➤ **For each item, guess the general meaning of the word from the context. Write the general meaning in English.**

1. George often boasts about how well he can play tennis. He says he can beat any of us! He thinks he's the best tennis player in town!

What does "boast" mean?

---

2. I sat down on the grass to rest. Then I felt something on my leg. It was a little black ant. There were many more of them near my foot. I jumped up quickly.

What is an "ant"?

---

3. Jimmy's medicine had a nasty taste. He took it the first time, but he didn't want to take it again. His mother had to put some sugar in it.

What is a "nasty" taste?

---

4. You can get to Jarrod's Island by small boat taxis or by ferry. The ferry can also carry cars. In good weather, it takes about half an hour.

What is a "ferry"?

---

5. One stormy night a fishing boat crashed into some rocks. All the people on the boat perished. No one ever found their bodies.

What does "perish" mean?

---

6. Miriam was enthusiastic about dancing. She loved her dance classes, and she told everyone she wanted to be a dancer.

What does "enthusiastic" mean?

---

➤ **Now check the meanings of the words in a dictionary.**



### Exercise 9

➤ For each item, guess the general meaning of the word from the context. Write the general meaning in English.

1. Sir Cavendish stood with his head held high. The King was very angry. "Why are you on your feet?" he shouted. "You must get down on your knees before the King!"

What does "knees" mean?

---

2. My mother was an absentminded person. She was always thinking about something else, so she often forgot things. One day, she went to work with her slippers on!

What is an "absentminded" person?

---

3. We brought our boat into the harbor just before the storm started. It was a small harbor, and it was crowded with other boats. But it was safe from the strong winds.

What is a "harbor"?

---

4. The exam had a few difficult parts. But on the whole, it was not hard and almost all the students did well.

What does "on the whole" mean?

---

5. The tall woman caught Sally by her arm. Sally tried to get away, but the woman had a strong grip and held onto her arm.

What does "grip" mean?

---

6. Look at all the rust on your bicycle! I think you left it outside in the rain. Now you should clean and oil it.

What is "rust"?

---

➤ Now check the meanings of the words in a dictionary.



**Exercise 10**

➤ *In this passage the underlined words may be new to you. Read the whole passage. Use the context to guess the meaning of the words you do not know. Do not use a dictionary and do not ask anyone about the words.*

**Ballooning**

The first kind of air transportation was not a plane. It was a balloon. People traveled by balloon 100 years before there were planes or jet aircraft. Those early days of ballooning were exciting, but they were also dangerous. Sometimes the balloons fell suddenly. Sometimes they burned. However, the danger did not stop  
5 the balloonists.

The first real balloon flight was in France in 1783. Two Frenchmen, the Montgolfier brothers, made a balloon. They filled a very large paper bag with hot air. Hot air is lighter than cold air, so it goes up. The Montgolfiers' hot air balloon went up 1,000 feet in the sky.

10 Later that same year, two other Frenchmen ascended in a basket under a balloon. They built a fire under the balloon to make the air hot. This made the balloon stay up in the air for a few hours. But their balloon was tied to the ground. So it could not go anywhere.

The first free balloon flight was in December, 1783. The balloon flew for 25  
15 minutes over Paris. It traveled about 5 1/2 miles. Flying a balloon is not like flying a plane. The balloon has no engine and therefore no power of its own. The wind directs the balloon. It goes where the wind blows. The pilot can control only the altitude of the balloon. He or she can raise and lower the balloon to find the right wind direction. That is how a good pilot controls where the  
20 balloon goes.

Soon balloonists tried longer flights. A major event in the history of ballooning was the first long flight over water. In 1785, an American and a Frenchman flew over the English Channel. They left England on a cold, clear  
25 January day. After about an hour, their balloon began to descend toward the water. They threw out some equipment and food to make the balloon lighter. The balloon continued to fall, so they threw out almost everything in the basket— even some of their clothes. Finally, after about three hours, they landed in France, cold but safe.

During the nineteenth century, ballooning became a popular sport. There  
30 were balloon races in Europe. Balloons were also used by scientists to study the air and by armies in wartime. After the airplane was invented, people lost interest in balloons. Planes were much faster and easier to control. But some people today still like to go up in balloons. High up in the balloon basket, they find quiet. They have a wonderful view of the world below.



➤ **A. Now you can check the meanings of the underlined words in the passage. The underlined words are in Column 1. The meanings are in Column 2. Write the letter of the best meaning after each word. You may look back at the passage. Work with another student.**

Column 1	Column 2
1. transportation _____	a. important
2. balloon _____	b. distance above the earth
3. aircraft _____	c. way of traveling
4. balloonist _____	d. a vehicle for traveling by air
5. ascend _____	e. go down
6. pilot _____	f. person who flies a plane or balloon
7. control _____	g. special things you need to do something
8. altitude _____	h. someone who travels in a balloon
9. major _____	i. go up
10. descend _____	j. make for the first time
11. equipment _____	k. a bag full of air
12. invent _____	l. make something do what you want it to do

➤ **B. Circle the best ending to complete each of the following sentences about the passage. You may look back at the passage.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. The first kind of air travel was in</p> <p>a. a jet plane.</p> <p>b. an aircraft.</p> <p>c. a balloon.</p> <p>d. a ship.</p> | <p>4. One way to control a balloon is to</p> <p>a. use the engine.</p> <p>b. find the right wind direction.</p> <p>c. ask the pilot.</p> <p>d. not change altitude.</p>                                  |
| <p>2. Many early balloonists lived in</p> <p>a. England.</p> <p>b. the United States.</p> <p>c. Italy.</p> <p>d. France.</p>       | <p>5. People stopped using balloons for air travel because</p> <p>a. balloons are dangerous.</p> <p>b. balloons are not comfortable.</p> <p>c. it is not fun</p> <p>d. planes are easier to control.</p> |
| <p>3. The balloon rises if the air inside gets</p> <p>a. colder.</p> <p>b. hotter.</p> <p>c. out.</p> <p>d. descended.</p>         |  |



**Exercise 11**

➤ **Read the whole passage. Use the context to guess the meaning of the underlined words you do not know. Do not use a dictionary and do not ask anyone about the words.**

**The Story of Photography**

In 1826, a Frenchman named Niepce needed pictures for his business. But he was not a good artist. So he invented a very simple camera. He put it in a window of his house and took a picture of his yard. That was the first photograph.

The next important date in the history of photography was 1837. That year, 5  
Daguerre, another Frenchman, took a picture of his studio. He used a new kind of camera and a different process. In his pictures, you could see everything clearly, even the smallest details. This kind of photograph was called a *daguerreotype*.

Soon, other people began to use Daguerre's process. Travelers brought back daguerreotypes from all around the world. People photographed famous 10  
buildings, cities, and mountains.

In about 1840, the process was improved. Then photographers could take pictures of people and moving things. The process was not simple. The photographers had to carry lots of film and processing equipment. But this did not stop the photographers, especially in the United States. After 1840, 15  
daguerreotype artists were popular in most cities.

Matthew Brady was one well-known American photographer. He took many portraits of famous people. The portraits were unusual because they were lifelike and full of personality. Brady was also the first person to take pictures of a war. His 1862 Civil War pictures showed dead soldiers and ruined cities. They made 20  
the war seem more real and more terrible.

In the 1880s, new inventions began to change photography. Photographers could buy film ready-made in rolls. So they did not have to make the film themselves. Also, they did not have to process the film immediately. They could bring it back to their studios and develop it later. They did not have to carry lots 25  
of equipment. And finally, the invention of the small handheld camera made photography less expensive.

With the small camera, anyone could be a photographer. People began to use cameras just for fun. They took pictures of their families, friends, and favorite places. They called these pictures "snapshots."

30 Documentary photographs became popular in newspapers in the 1890s. Soon magazines and books also used them. These pictures showed true events and people. They were much more real than drawings.

Some people also began to think of photography as a form of art. They thought that photography could do more than show the real world. It could also 35  
show ideas and feelings, like other art forms.



➤ **A. The underlined words from the passage are in Column 1. The meanings are in Column 2. Write the letter of the best meaning after each word. You may look back at the passage. Work with another student.**

**Column 1**

**Column 2**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. studio _____       | a. a way of doing something                      |
| 2. process _____      | b. what makes people who they are                |
| 3. details _____      | c. completely fallen down, useless               |
| 4. improve _____      | d. showing how things really are                 |
| 5. portraits _____    | e. kind or type                                  |
| 6. personality _____  | f. a place for artists and photographers to work |
| 7. ruined _____       | g. change film into photographs                  |
| 8. immediately _____  | h. make better                                   |
| 9. develop _____      | i. small, important parts                        |
| 10. documentary _____ | j. pictures of people                            |
| 11. form _____        | k. without waiting, right away                   |

➤ **B. Circle the best ending to complete each of the following sentences about the passage. You may look back at the passage.**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. The first photograph was taken with | 4. The new inventions in          |
| a. a small handheld camera.            | photography made it possible for  |
| b. a daguerreotype.                    | a. Brady to take pictures of the  |
| c. a very simple camera.               | Civil War.                        |
| d. new film.                           | b. anyone to be a photographer.   |
| 2. The story of photography            | c. only rich people to take       |
| a. began in the sixteenth century.     | pictures.                         |
| b. began in France.                    | d. people to use daguerreotypes.  |
| c. is unknown.                         | 5. Photography can also be an art |
| d. began in the United States.         | form, because photographers can   |
| 3. Matthew Brady was well known for    | a. take photographs to show the   |
| a. inventing daguerreotypes.           | real world.                       |
| b. taking pictures of French cities.   | b. make documentaries.            |
| c. portraits and war photographs.      | c. show ideas and feelings in     |
| d. the small handheld camera.          | photographs.                      |
|  | d. copy old pictures.             |



Read to do  
pgs. 63-65

### Using pronouns and synonyms

Writers do not use the same word many times. That would be boring for the reader. So writers often use other words that mean the same thing, like pronouns or synonyms. These small words help tie ideas together when you read.

#### Pronouns

Sometimes **pronouns** are used instead of nouns. They are small words, but they are very important when you are reading. You will understand more of what you read if you pay attention to pronouns.

#### Some pronouns

I	we	you	he	she	it	they
him	her	them	that	this	these	those

In the following examples, the pronouns are underlined:

#### EXAMPLE A

Mary Simms lives in New York City. She has an apartment near Central Park. Mary jogs in the park. She thinks that jogging is good for her. So she jogs three times a week.

All the underlined pronouns take the place of the noun "Mary Simms." The noun "Mary Simms" is called the **referent**, because the pronouns refer back to it.

#### EXAMPLE B

Jogging is good for your health for a few reasons. It is especially good for your heart. If you do it a few days a week, your heart will be stronger. It is also good for your legs. And many people believe it is good for your mind.

All of the underlined pronouns take the place of the noun "jogging." "Jogging" is the referent.

#### EXAMPLE C

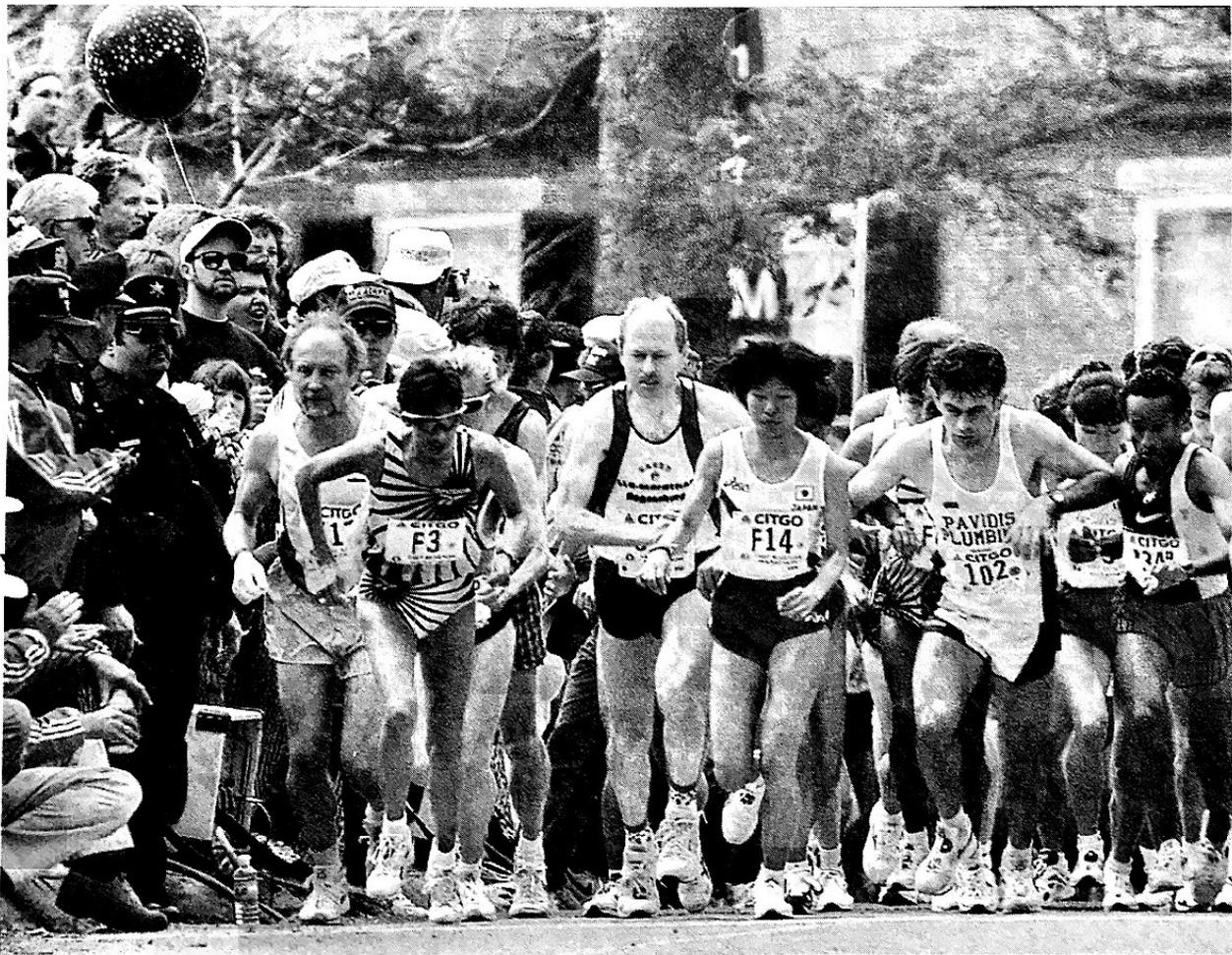
Swimming and bicycling are also popular sports. People like them because they are easy to do. Yet these are sports which help people make their hearts and lungs stronger. They are also good because they are not dangerous, and people can enjoy them with friends.

All of the underlined pronouns take the place of the phrase "swimming and bicycling." "Swimming and bicycling" is the referent.

**Exercise 12**

➤ *In each of the following sentences, the pronoun is underlined. Circle the referent.*

1. Running is not a new sport. People were doing it hundreds of years ago.
2. Runners know that a good diet is important. They eat healthy foods, especially before a race.
3. During a race, people along the road give water to the runners. This helps keep the runners from becoming too thirsty.
4. In Kenya and other parts of Africa, running is part of everyday life. It is a usual way for people to travel.
5. Many Africans are good runners. They often win marathons and races in the Olympics.
6. In some races, the winners get large amounts of money. That is a good reason to try to win.





**Exercise 13**

➤ In this passage, the pronouns are underlined. Write the pronouns and their referents on the lines below.

**The Boston Marathon**

Every year, in the middle of April, thousands of people go to Boston. They go to run the Boston Marathon. This is one of the oldest road races in the United States. It began in 1897.

Each year, more runners join the Boston Marathon. They come from every part of the world. In 1996, 38,708 runners from almost every country in the world ran in the Marathon. About 35,810 of them finished it.

The Boston race is 26.2 miles, or 42 kilometers. It starts in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and ends in the center of Boston. The runners go through 13 more towns during the race. Crowds of people watch them as they go through the towns. The people cheer for them and hand them water.

*Pronouns*

*Referents*

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____
8	_____	_____
9	_____	_____
10	_____	_____
11	_____	_____



**Exercise 14**

➤ In this passage, the pronouns are underlined. Write the pronouns and their referents on the lines below.

**Jogging**

Jogging is a popular activity in New York City. In the winter, the weather is too cold for it. But in the spring, it is warmer, and many New Yorkers go out to jog in Central Park. This is a good place to run.

Other New Yorkers also like to go to Central Park. Many of them go there with their dogs. Dogs can run in the park. Sometimes the dogs run after the joggers. They may try to bite them. So the joggers sometimes kick the dogs or throw stones at them. The dog owners do not understand. They wonder why the joggers do not like dogs. The park police are trying to solve the problem. They want all of the people to use the park in peace.

Pronouns	Referents
① <u>it</u>	_____
② <u>it</u>	_____
③ <u>This</u>	_____
④ <u>them</u>	_____
⑤ <u>They</u>	_____
⑥ <u>them</u>	_____
⑦ <u>They</u>	_____
⑧ <u>They</u>	_____
⑨ <u>They</u>	_____



2257!

**Exercise 15**

➤ **There are 18 pronouns in this passage. Write them and their referents below.**

**Joggers and Dogs in Central Park**

Mary Simms and Jim Fuller went jogging in Central Park last Saturday. They ran into a problem: a large white dog. It ran after them and tried to bite their legs.

They were scared and did not know what to do. Mary picked up a big stick and showed it to the dog. She wanted to scare it away, but the dog just barked at her. Then Jim threw a large rock at the animal. It hit the dog on the head.

The dog's owner was angry. "Stop hurting my dog!" she shouted. "It will not hurt you. It is just a puppy."

Then she took a large stick and tried to hit Mary and Jim.

Just then, a park police officer came along the path. He saw them fighting. "This is terrible!" he said. "Stop fighting!"

Pronouns

Referents

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____
8	_____	_____
9	_____	_____
10	_____	_____
11	_____	_____
12	_____	_____
13	_____	_____
14	_____	_____
15	_____	_____
16	_____	_____
17	_____	_____
18	_____	_____



### More about pronouns

Sometimes pronouns can take the place of a group of words.

#### EXAMPLE

The city park police officer often meets dangerous people. Some people go to the park to steal. Other people are there to sell drugs. Sometimes people start serious gunfights in the park. The park police officer may meet any of these in the park.

Pronoun

Referent

these \_\_\_\_\_

people who steal, sell drugs, or start gunfights \_\_\_\_\_

### \*Exercise 16

➤ **The pronouns in these passages are underlined. Circle the referents.**

1. Two Frenchmen went up in a basket under a balloon. They built a fire to make the air hot. This made the balloon stay up in the air.
2. The pilot of a balloon can control its altitude. He or she can raise and lower the balloon to find the right wind direction. That is how a good pilot can control where the balloon goes.
3. Early photographers had to carry film and heavy equipment everywhere they went. But this did not stop them.
4. Helen Keller was deaf and blind. She could not speak until she was seven years old. That did not stop her. She became a famous writer and teacher.
5. A tornado is a dangerous storm. It brings strong winds, and it travels very fast. The strong winds can turn over cars, destroy houses, and kill people. And this happens in just a few minutes.
6. Tornadoes blow dust and dirt into the air. They make a cone shape in the sky. When people see this, they get ready for the storm.
7. When tornadoes touch the ground, they move along at about 35 to 45 kilometers per hour. No one knows which way they will go.
8. In a small town, a tornado can destroy an entire street of homes and stores. Many families lose their homes. The government tries to help them when this happens.
9. Tornadoes are common in Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri. People in those states worry when they see a cone-shaped cloud in the sky. It tells them a tornado is coming.
10. The wind of a tornado is strong. No one knows exactly how fast it is in the center. The wind always breaks the machines used to measure it!



**Synonyms: General and specific**

**Synonyms** are different words or phrases that refer to the same idea. They are another way for an author to tie ideas together. You can understand more if you pay attention to these words. Read the following sentences:

The Pope visited Colombia, Peru, and Mexico last year. Crowds of Catholics greeted him in these countries. It was his first visit to that part of the world.

"These countries" is a synonym for Colombia, Peru, and Mexico. "That part of the world" is another synonym for Colombia, Peru, and Mexico.

1. **Specific:** "Colombia, Peru, and Mexico"
2. **Less specific:** "these countries"
3. **General:** "that part of the world"

**★ Exercise 17**

➤ **Put the following synonyms in order from specific to general. Write "1" above the most specific word. Write "2" above the less specific word. Write "3" above the most general word.**

**EXAMPLE**

2                      1                      3  
company, IBM Corporation, organization

1. music, rock music, twentieth-century music
2. Japanese mountain, Mount Fuji, mountain
3. problems, water pollution problems, pollution problems
4. pine tree, evergreen tree, tree
5. musicians, Sting, popular musicians
6. Nicaragua, country, Central American country
7. man, Dr. Diamond, dentist
8. place, Boston, city
9. The *New York Times*, newspaper, reading material
10. group, Diamond family, people



11. storm, tornado, windstorm
12. president, person, political leader
13. shirt, white shirt, clothing
14. flute, musical instrument, wind instrument
15. jet plane, Boeing 737, air transportation

### **Exercise 18**

---

➤ ***In each passage, there is a word underlined. Find and circle the synonym(s) for it in the passage.***

**EXAMPLE** Liz and Jeff moved to Paris last month. They like the city very much.

1. Chrys was born in London, but she lives in Glasgow now. She has learned to love Scotland. It is her new homeland.
2. Hiroko plays the violin in the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The sound of this stringed instrument is very special.
3. The president of the city council gave a long speech. As the leader, she has to plan many new projects.
4. The tornado hit a small town in Kansas. The storm swept down the main street. The terrible winds caused five stores to fall down.
5. Lemons, limes, and oranges are all delicious to eat. These citrus fruits are also healthy for you. They are a good source of vitamin C.
6. Many Americans skip breakfast. They say they do not have time for food in the morning. This is a mistake. The human body needs that meal.
7. Joanne's big car uses a lot of gasoline. She has to stop often to fill the tank with fuel.
8. We saw a lion with three little cubs at the wild animal park. The cats were lying on the rocks in the warm afternoon sun. We were happy to see such wonderful animals in such a nice place.
9. In some countries, the winter is long and cold. It is not a popular season. Some people are so unhappy at that time of the year that they get sick.
10. Astronauts all have one problem: They get motion sickness. This illness makes it difficult to do their work. Doctors and scientists are working on this problem.