GENERAL AND SPECIFIC

What is the difference between GENERAL and SPECIFIC?

General words are found in large works…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DICTIONARY</th>
<th>SYNONYMS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Broad</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Universal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Collective</td>
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<td>Ordinary</td>
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<td>Common</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

General words are broad usages that are commonly known terms.

The general terminology is comparatively easy to learn with the help of a dictionary or even a synonym. The common words may be encountered in ant communication situation. If the four years or so that you are in college, you will be expected to learn a great variety of subjects. You will need to work on both your general and specific vocabularies.

Specific Words are found in special studies. . .

Biology Calculus Psychology

Specific expressions have a special application or reference; they are more definite and precise.

In contrast to general words, specialized terms can be more difficult to learn because they take on different meanings. For example, the term entertainment has various connotations, associated or secondary meanings, in art, literature, or theatrics.

Let’s try some exercises that aid us in distinguishing the diversity between the general and the specific.
Exercise 1

DIRECTIONS: Sort out each group of words by writing the most general word at the top and the most specific word at the bottom.

Example: vegetables, living things, grass, creeping bent grass

living things

___________________________________________

vegetables

_______________________________

grass

____________________________________

creeping bent grass

_____________________________________

1. automobile, Ford, models of transportation, wheeled vehicles

________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

2. Seven-Up, beverages, soda pop, cold drinks

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________
3. Highway 66, cement objects, roads, highways

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

4. desk chairs, furniture, seats, chairs

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

5. days, Christmas, holidays, religious holidays

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

Exercise 2

DIRECTIONS: For each of these words, find a term that is more **general** and a word that is more **specific**.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Specific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sycamore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. __________________________light bulb __________________________

2. __________________________sport __________________________

3. __________________________factory __________________________
Exercise 3

DIRECTIONS: Mark each of the following sentences as either general or specific. Look for key terms to help you distinguish the differences.

1. Reading can be rewarding.
2. You can compare it to a spinning top.
3. I like most animals.
4. Twenty-five percent of them agree.
5. It is difficult to pick my favorite sport.

Exercise 4

DIRECTIONS: For each of the following generalizations, find a specific example that illustrates it.

Example: Generalization: Driving on ice is dangerous.
Specific example: Last winter during the ice storm, my father had his first accident in 25 years of driving; he skidded across the freeway and down a twelve-foot embankment.

1. Books can change people’s lives.
2. People who work hard get ahead in the world.
3. The late-night television talk shows are a comic relief.
Exercise 5

DIRECTIONS: Write generalizations based on these specific situations.

Example: Specific situation: A small Boy Scout helped the old lady across the street. Generalization: Boy Scouts are helpful.

1. Last year, there were more news programs on television than in the preceding ten Years combined.

2. I went to eleven banks today trying to cash a check without identification. Not one Of them would cash it for me.

3. When Henry borrowed money from me, he promised me that I would have it back In three weeks. Today marks the third week to the day, and he just repaid me in Full.
ANSWERS

Exercise 1

1. modes of transportation, wheeled vehicles, auto, Ford
2. beverages, cold drinks, soda pop, Seven-up
3. cement objects, roads, highways, Highway 66
4. furniture, seats, chairs, desk chairs
5. days, holidays, religious holidays, Christmas

Exercise 2  Answers may vary.

1. electric lights florescent
2. team game football
3. building General Motors Corp.
4. silverware teaspoon
5. garden tulip

Exercise 3

1. general
2. specific
3. general
4. specific
5. general

Exercise 4  Answers may vary.

1. The book Megatrends had a powerful effect on our society.
2. Thomas Edison experimented with nearly a thousand bulbs before one worked to his satisfaction.
3. The Tonight Show is a humorous relief from stress.

Exercise 5  Answers may vary

1. Television programs continued because of good ratings.
2. It is important to carry proper identification on your person.
3. Loaning money to friends can sometimes affect a friendship.