Reading Comprehension: specific detail

A specific-detail question is answered by explicit information in the passage, so. . .



Lesson grev.rc.R4

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The idea

A specific-detail question is answered by explicit information in the passage, so your job is to locate the relevant statement and match it, not to reason beyond it. Find the words in the text that address the question and read them exactly, noting scope words (only, most, not, unlike) that fix the claim's limits.

Which sentence in the passage explicitly addresses this question, and exactly what does it say — including its scope words?

Locate the relevant line, read it precisely, and predict the answer from the text before scanning options.

Watch every step

A camera obscura is nothing but a dark room with a small hole in one wall. Light from the sunlit scene outside passes through the hole and casts an image of that scene, upside down, on the opposite wall. The smaller the hole, the sharper but dimmer the image. Renaissance artists are thought to have traced such projections to capture accurate perspective, though the device itself adds nothing to the scene; it merely gathers and orders light that was already there.

According to the passage, shrinking the hole of a camera obscura yields an image that is

A. brighter but blurrier. ✗ *contradicts-text*

B. perfectly sharp no matter how large the room. ✗ *overreach*

C. turned right-side up rather than inverted. ✗ *distortion/detail-swap*

D. tinted toward the red end of the spectrum. ✗ *out-of-scope*

✓ **E.** sharper but dimmer.

Why E — "sharper but dimmer.." Choose the option that restates the passage's explicit statement without adding to or reversing it.

Now a harder one

Sleep does more than rest the body; it helps fix the day's learning into lasting memory. During deep sleep the brain appears to replay the neural patterns of waking experience, strengthening the connections that encode them. Studies find that people who sleep after learning a task recall it better than those kept awake the same number of hours. The benefit is specific to what was recently learned; sleep does not improve memories that were already well established days before.

According to the passage, the memory benefit of sleep applies to

- ✓ **A.** material that was learned recently, not memories already well established.
- **B.** memories of emotionally distressing events alone. ✗ *out-of-scope*
- **C.** information presented only during sleep itself. ✗ *distortion/detail-swap*
- **D.** chiefly memories formed days earlier and already secure. ✗ *contradicts-text*
- **E.** every memory a person has ever formed. ✗ *overreach*

Why A — "material that was learned recently, not memories already. . . ." Choose the option that restates the passage's explicit statement without adding to or reversing it.

The method, in one line

Reading Comprehension: specific detail

Locate the relevant line, read it precisely, and predict the answer from the text before scanning options.

Can I point to the exact words that support my choice? Does any option contradict the text, overreach beyond it, go outside it, or misattribute a detail?

Watch out: two traps to dodge

⚠ contradicts-text

Selects a statement that reverses or conflicts with something the passage explicitly says.

⚠ overreach

Extends a stated fact into a stronger, broader, or absolute claim the passage does not make.

Name the trap before you pick — most wrong answers are one of these two.

Try it, then watch the walk-through

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