Generalisations & specifics

1 Match the sentences in the first list below with an appropriate sentence in the second list on the next page. The *underlined words and phrases* in the first list should have a similar meaning to the words and phrases in bold in the second list. Write the sentence letter (A, B, C, etc.) from the second list after the relevant sentence in the first list.

FIRST LIST

1. ***Small items of information*** are very important in a curriculum vitae *D*
2. I need to have ***precise information*** about your new proposals. …
3. The plan was unable to go ahead because of a ***small important detail which is important in order to make something happen***. ….
4. He demanded to know the ***small, precise and sometimes unimportant details***. ….
5. When you read a piece of text in the exam, you should read it quickly first to get the ***general idea***. ….
6. Before you write an essay, you should plan it first and give a broad ***description without giving much detail***. …
7. ***Odd features or details which make something different*** make the world a more interesting place. ….
8. Saying that all young people spend too much time on the Internet is a bit of a ***general statement***. ….
9. Many cars have very similar ***typical features***. ….
10. The huge rise in computer sales is a good ***example*** of the direction in which technology is heading. ….
11. ***Normally,*** most students sitting the exam manage to pass with a good grade. ….
12. The new library ***shows a good example of*** British architecture at its best. ….
13. Before you travel somewhere, it is important to ***make a detailed list of*** things that you need to take. ….
14. French fries with mayonnaise is a dish which is ***an odd feature or detail of*** Belgian cuisine. ….
15. The article ***shows as an example*** his views on the way the company should develop. ….

2 Put the words and phrases above into the table below, based on whether they are talking about *specific* things or *general* things. Then try to use the words in sentences of your own.

Specific things:	*the specifics*
General things:	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Generalisations & specifics

SECOND LIST

A. Please let me have **the specifics** as soon as possible.

B. It's very frustrating when a minor **technicality** puts a stop to your plans.

C. In the same way, kimchii is a concoction of cabbage, chilli and garlic which is **peculiar to** Korea.

D. You should include full **details** of your past experience.

E. Once you have an **outline,** you will discover that your work is easier to organise.

F. We must be careful not to make this kind of **generalisation**.

G. **Itemise** everything in order of importance, beginning with your passport and visa.

H. As far as he was concerned, the **minutiae** could not be overlooked.

I. Most manufacturers are aware that these **characteristics** are what help sell their product.

J. It also provides us with an accurate **illustration** of the advances we have made in the last 20 years.

K. It **illustrates** his preference for increased automation.

L. Once you have the **gist**, it should be easier to understand it.

M. It **exemplifies** the style that is becoming increasingly popular with town planners.

N. In **general**, the average result is a B or C.

O. For example, it is one of the **peculiarities** of the British system that judges and lawyers wear wigs in court.

LIVEWORKSHEETS