

ADEQUATE DETAIL

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Provide enough detail so your reader knows exactly what you mean.

Inadequate detail: That vacation turned out to be the best one ever.

Reader's questions: Why was it the best vacation? What did you do? What was special about it?

Adequate detail: Our family camping trip to Thatcher State Park in August was our best vacation ever. We hiked and rock climbed, spent long days at the swimming pool, and learned how to make and tend a campfire. We even saw two rattlesnakes and a bald eagle! But best of all we shared our good times with new friends who camped next to us.

Showing Action Through Detail

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Which of the following passages helps you better understand what lunchtime is like at Riley's Place?

* Riley's Place is a loud and busy restaurant at lunchtime.

* Waiters banged dishes on too bare metal tables; knives and forks clattered together; customers shouted above the din. It was lunchtime at Riley's Place, and there wasn't a seat in the house.