

Pre-writing

**In this unit, you will:**

- ▶ Use specific information to add interest
- ▶ Practice making lists to get more information
- ▶ Make lists about yourself and your interests
- ▶ Use your lists to write about yourself



Warm Ups

Specific Information

Specific information tells a reader more than general statements. It makes your writing more interesting to read.

Too General

I love listening to music in my free time. I enjoy music very much. I listen to music after school and on the weekends. I have many CDs and tapes at home.

- **We don't learn much about the writer from this. It could be about almost anyone.**

More Specific

I love listening to music in my free time. My favorites are heavy metal and pop music. I have every CD by Guns and Roses. I also have CDs by Madonna and Elton John. I often listen to my Walkman when I run in the park on Sundays.

- **This really tells us something about the writer.**

1. Write questions after these sentences to ask for specific information. Use **who**, **what**, **where**, **when**, or **how**. The first one is done for you.

1. I like to play tennis. Who do you play with? How often do you play?

Where do you play?

2. I love to spend time at the beach. _____

3. My favorite pastime is watching videos. _____

4. In my free time, I like to cook. _____

2. Now pick one of the sentences above and rewrite it with more specific information. Use your own ideas to answer the questions.

3. Next write an answer to the question below. Try to include specific information to make your answer interesting.

Question: *What do you like to do in your free time?*



Writing Matters

Pre-writing by Listing

Making lists is a good way to gather specific information before you write. Look at the three steps you can use for listing.

Step 1: Make a list (for example, about your hobbies).

<i>guitar</i>	<i>running</i>	<i>cooking</i>	<i>CDs</i>
<i>windsurfing</i>	<i>television</i>	<i>sewing</i>	

Step 2: Circle the items you want to write about.

<i>guitar</i>	<i>running</i>	<i>cooking</i>	<i>CDs</i>
<i>windsurfing</i>	<i>television</i>	<i>sewing</i>	

Step 3: Use those items as topics for new lists.

<i>guitar</i>	<i>sewing</i>	<i>windsurfing</i>
<i>nylon strings</i>	<i>kitchen curtains</i>	<i>Hawaii trip</i>
<i>folk music</i>	<i>blue dress</i>	<i>Sunset Beach</i>
<i>Beatles songs</i>	<i>sewing machine</i>	<i>my teacher – Mr. Park</i>
_____	<i>my own design</i>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

1. Use the items in the box below to complete the lists in Step 3: **guitar**, **sewing**, and **windsurfing**. Write each item on the line where it belongs.

<i>blouse for Mom</i>	<i>music group</i>	<i>songbook</i>
<i>guitar lessons</i>	<i>wet suit</i>	<i>sunscreen</i>

2. Work with a partner. Read the topics below and add at least three more topics for writing about personal interests.

Topics

hobbies *school clubs* *travel* *what I do in my free time* *jobs*
