

**The main idea: Letter home***Instruction*

The aim of this exercise is to help you summarise, or 'see the wood for the trees'. Read the letter carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.

Dear Mum and Dad

The plane got in at 12.40 on Tuesday, almost an hour late because there was a security alert at the airport. It must have been a bomb scare, because I'd never seen so many police – no bomb though. The heat and humidity hit us like a wall when we stepped off the plane, but thankfully our hotel room is air-conditioned. Kathy sends her love, as does cousin Frank whom we met yesterday for the first time. He flew in from New Zealand on Saturday – so he knows his way around. The streets are crowded with rickshaws, lorries, cars and sacred cows. Anyway, we are safe and well and enjoying the trip so far. Oh by the way, if you've got time, could you let Mike know that I'll be away for three weeks – although I'm sure Jack will tell him, so don't bother unless you see him. Must go now as the Post Office is just about to shut – what a splendid building it is – huge high glass ceiling – very inefficient counter staff though. We will write later in more detail – possibly next week.

Lots of love, Brian.

- 1 Write one sentence that reflects the main point or purpose of the letter.

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- 2 Write a sentence that describes one important detail of the letter.

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- 3 Write a sentence that describes one trivial, unimportant detail.

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- 4 How many people are mentioned in the paragraph, and how are they related?

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How did you find this exercise? Easy  OK  Hard  What strategies did you use?