

Why labels matter

Non-fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

Two jars of pale powder sit on a kitchen shelf. They look alike, but one contains flour and the other icing sugar. A label allows a cook to identify the contents without opening, tasting or guessing. In other settings, the same simple idea can prevent confusion.

A useful label gives the information needed for a particular job. A seed packet might name the plant and say when to sow it. A museum label might give an object's name, age and place of origin. Adding every possible detail would make either label difficult to scan quickly.

Position matters as well as wording. A label hidden behind a jar cannot help someone standing in front of the shelf. Small writing may be difficult to read from a distance. Good contrast between letters and background makes the words easier to see.

Labels also need updating. If a box once held pencils but now holds scissors, its old label sends the reader in the wrong direction. A neat design cannot make incorrect information reliable. Checking the contents and changing the words are part of keeping a label useful.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. What are the two powders in the example?

- A. Salt and flour
- B. Icing sugar and sand
- C. Flour and cocoa
- D. Flour and icing sugar

2. What might a seed packet say besides the plant's name?

- A. When to sow it
- B. Who last opened the kitchen jar
- C. How old a museum object is
- D. Where the scissors are stored

3. What does “scan” mean here?

- A. Copy every word into a book
- B. Taste the contents carefully
- C. Make the letters smaller
- D. Read quickly to find needed information

4. Why would every possible detail make a label less useful?

- A. The label would always be hidden
- B. The reader would no longer need to identify the object
- C. The reader could struggle to find the information needed quickly
- D. The contents of the container would change

5. Why is a neat old label still a problem on the scissors box?

- A. It contains too many details about pencils
- B. Its information no longer matches the contents
- C. Its letters must have poor contrast
- D. It gives the exact age of the scissors

6. Which statement best summarises the passage?

- A. Useful labels need relevant, readable and accurate information
- B. A beautiful design matters more than correct words
- C. Every label should contain the same information
- D. Labels remove the need to check anything

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. D. Flour and icing sugar

The opening paragraph identifies flour and icing sugar.

2. A. When to sow it

The second paragraph gives the time to sow as useful seed-packet information.

3. D. Read quickly to find needed information

The label should let readers find key information quickly.

4. C. The reader could struggle to find the information needed quickly

Too much detail works against the quick scanning described in the passage.

5. B. Its information no longer matches the contents

The label still says pencils even though the contents are now scissors.

6. A. Useful labels need relevant, readable and accurate information

The passage covers choosing information, making it visible and keeping it accurate.

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