Textual features

Booster 4: Identifying the main purpose from other purposes

Key learning

The main purpose of a text is the most important thing it is doing. To identify the main purpose of a text you need to read it carefully to decide why it has been written (its purpose), then read the text carefully again and work out the most important thing that the text is saying.

Worked example:

Read the following text carefully.

Protect Yourself from Phishing Emails

Phishing emails are emails sent by criminals to trick you into giving them personal information. Often a phishing email will invite you to click on a link, telling you that you will be taken to a website you may be interested in. If you click on the link, the criminal may be able to find out your passwords and personal details or put viruses into your computer. Here are some tips to help protect you against phishing.

Simple rules to stay safe

- Check the sender's name.
- If you don't recognise the name of the person who sent the email, it may be a phishing email.
- Check the sender's address.
- If you don't recognise the address, or if it looks unusual, it may be a phishing email.
- Be careful on social media when sharing any private information online.
- Don't click on any links unless you have followed the above rules and are sure it is safe.

You can avoid people sending you phishing emails by remembering not to give out your email address or your personal details on social media.

What to do if you get a phishing email

There are three things you can do if you think you've got a phishing email.

1. Move the email to your spam folder.
2. Delete the email.
3. Contact your friends and warn them in case they receive a similar email.

What is the main purpose of the text? Tick **one** box only.

		✓
A	To give information about phishing emails	
B	To tell you about social media	
C	To tell you about computer viruses	
D	To give instructions about how to deal with phishing emails	

Answer:

D To give instructions about how to deal with phishing emails.

Reading the text carefully, we can see that it has two purposes:

1. it gives information about phishing emails
2. it gives instructions about to do about them.

Re-reading the text we can see that the most important thing it is doing is telling you what to do about phishing emails.

Your turn:

Read the following text carefully.

<div style="border:1px solid black">

Birdwatching

Birdwatching is a very popular hobby in the UK today. Some people watch birds for scientific reasons, so they can record their habits, how they feed, and where they live. Others watch birds simply for pleasure. If you want to start birdwatching, here are a few tips.

How to watch birds

There are certain things you can look out for when you start birdwatching.

- Appearance: What size is the bird? What colour are its feathers?
- Behaviour: What is the bird doing – is it flying, feeding, or simply perched on a branch?
- Sound: What sort of call does the bird make?

What you will need

1. Binoculars, so you can look at the bird in detail
2. A camera, so you can take a picture of the bird if you get close enough
3. A notebook, so you can write down details of what you see.

</div>

What is the main purpose of the text?