

Name _____

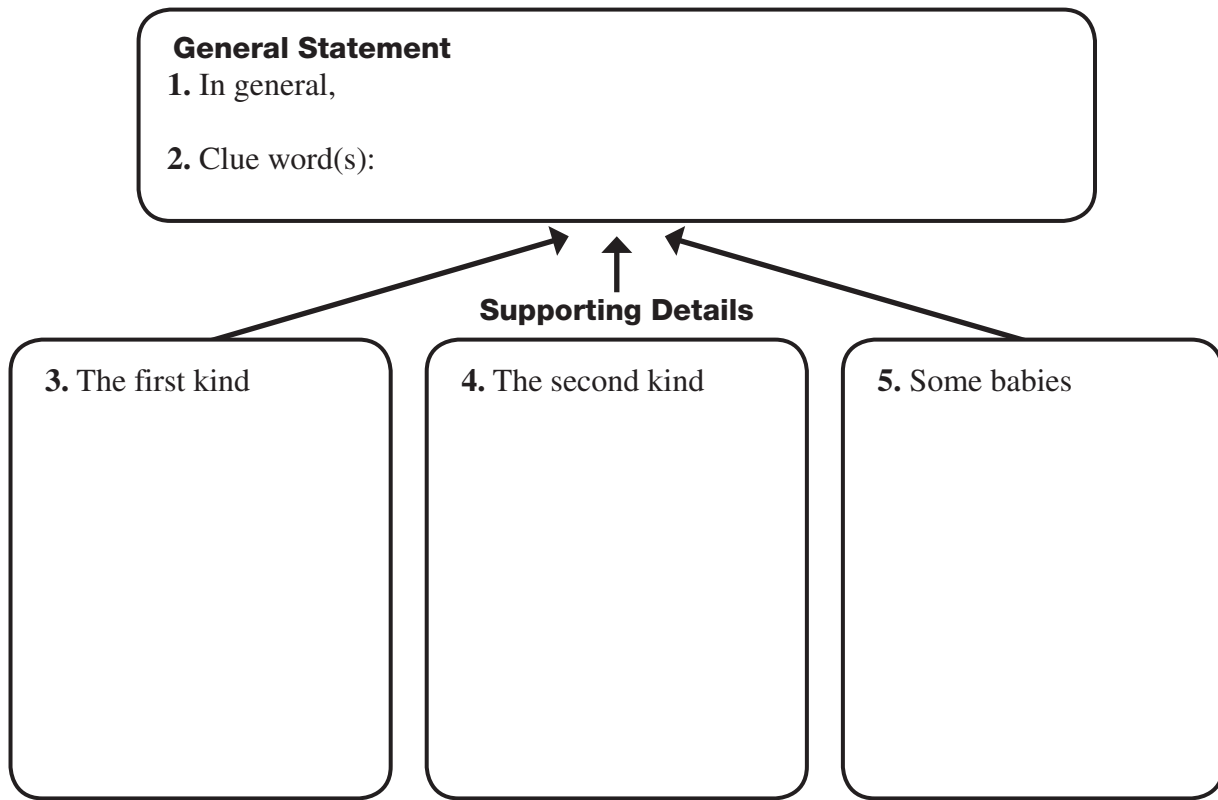
Generalize

- An author may write similar details about different things or people. You can use these similar details to make a general statement that covers all the things or people. This statement is called a **generalization**.
- A **valid** generalization can be supported by facts or details. A **faulty** generalization cannot.
- Sometimes an author makes a generalization and uses a clue word such as *all*, *many*, or *generally* to signal it.

Directions Read the following passage. Then complete the diagram below.

Deafness is the inability to hear. In general, there are two types of deafness. The first kind can be caused by earwax. Earwax blocks the pathway of sound from outside the ear into the inner ear in the head. This kind of deafness can usually be cured when a doctor softens the wax and flushes it out of the ear pathway.

A second kind of deafness is not curable. This is caused by a damaged nerve in the inner ear. Some babies are born without hearing. In other people, the nerve dies over a period of years. Extremely loud noises can damage the ear nerve. After injury the nerve cannot be healed.



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Home Activity Your child read a short passage and recognized a generalization using clue words. Read a newspaper or magazine article together and circle all the clue words that point to a generalization.