

Look for Information

A.1.4.1 A.2.4.1 B.3.3.2

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It's easy to remember your own birthday. But can you remember the birthdays of every one of your friends and family? It is easier to write all of those birthdays down.

It's the same with reading. Reading gives us a lot of new information. Active readers sort and keep track of the information by **taking notes**. That makes it easier to find answers later.

Look It is also helpful to make lists, charts, or pictures. Lists highlight *details* like words or names. Charts and pictures show *relationships* among things or ideas.

The table below shows one easy note-taking system. These notes are not full sentences. They are symbols. They mark important information so you can find it later. Put them in the margins next to points that you think are important.

You Write	It Marks	It Means
!	Ideas	This is the idea that the passage or section is about.
+	Details	This detail <i>adds</i> to my understanding of a key idea.
?	Problems	I don't understand this.
(insert word)	Words	I may need to know what this word means and why it is important. (Write the actual word in your notes.)
✓	Anything	I agree with or already knew what the author says here.
X	Anything	I disagree with or would not have predicted what the author says here.



Connections There are many ways to take notes. This lesson shows one simple way. Can you think of other ways to mark important information? Write your answers on the lines below.

Example

Reread this part of "All About Calcium." Look at the notes that Lucia took about the important information in the passage.

Lucia's Notes

!

+

X

✓

recommended

All About Calcium

Calcium is good for you. It helps build strong bones. Children need a lot of calcium to help them grow. But adults need calcium, too.

Milk and cheese contain a lot of calcium. Some people take calcium tablets. Calcium tablets are pills that contain calcium. But usually it is easier to drink milk or eat cheese. Even milkshakes and ice cream contain calcium.

Calcium in Vegetables

Some vegetables contain calcium. But you have to eat a lot of the vegetable to get enough calcium. For example, one and a half cups of broccoli give the same amount of calcium as one cup of milk. Six cups of spinach equal the calcium in one cup of milk.

How Much Calcium Do Children Need?

How much calcium do children need? That depends on their age. The chart below shows you what is needed. The amount of milk for various age groups is **recommended** by doctors. That means doctors think this amount of milk is right for the different age groups.

Lucia made five notes on "All About Calcium."

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She marked an "!" about children needing a lot of calcium. Since that is what the passage is mostly about, this note should be very helpful.

Lucia marked a "+" about milkshakes and ice cream containing calcium. This detail added to her understanding of what foods contain calcium.

Lucia marked an "X" about how much spinach and broccoli it takes to equal the calcium in a cup of milk. This information surprised her. She would not have predicted it.

She marked a "✓" about the amount of calcium a child needs depending on the child's age. Lucia may have expected this based on what she knows about vitamins and other things that are good for you.

She marked the word **recommended** as important to know. Since the author put it in **bold** to emphasize it, she is probably right.