Unit 8: Competition
The Introduction

In a three-paragraph text, the introduction is the first paragraph. The function of the introduction is to prepare the reader to receive the information in the text.

A Read the following introduction from a student's text. Then answer the questions.

> In some situations, especially in unfamiliar situations, it is best to take the advice you get. When I went to Thailand to visit my grandmother, I had never been there before, so I was in a very unfamiliar situation. One thing I needed to do almost every day was to walk alone to the store to buy food and bottled water. My grandmother lived near a very busy highway. A canal filled with dark, smelly water ran alongside the highway, so I had two choices: walk very close to cars, motorcycles, and buses, all racing to get downtown, or walk along the other side of the canal between the neighbors' fences and low walls and that dirty water. My grandmother's advice was to walk near the highway because of "the madman." But when I had to choose between the frenzy of the highway and the relative quiet of the canal, I decided to take my chances with the madman.

1. Does the introduction begin with a general statement or a specific statement? _____
   _____

2. In this case, what was unfamiliar and what was the advice? _____
   _____

3. Why does the author write about the physical arrangement of the highway and the canal?
   _____

4. When you read about "the madman," did it make you curious to read more? _____
   _____

B Read the information about what a good introduction usually has. Then find examples of the information in the text in **A**.

A beginning	This tells readers about the topic of the text. It could be a general statement, a question, or even a famous proverb or quotation related to the topic.
Background information	This is anything readers need to know before they can understand the text.
A focus	This is usually at the end of the introduction. It gives readers a good idea of what is coming next in the text.

C Think of a topic you would like to write about. Then plan what will be in the second paragraph of the text. (You need to know this before you begin to write.) Write a good introduction for your text in your notebook.