

## Summarizing and Paraphrasing

### 1. Match the correct endings to make a definition of the 2 words

- A. To paraphrase means...
- B. To summarize means...
- ...to express someone else's ideas in your own words.
- ...to express only the most important points of someone else's words.

### 2. Why is it important to paraphrase & summarize in Task 3 – Reading into writing?

### 3. Look at the following extracts from reading texts. Match them to paraphrased sentences which have the same meaning.

- 1. Keeping your house cool or warm, driving cars and making things in factories all pollute the atmosphere.
- 2. This affects the world weather and makes it difficult for animals to find food and fresh water.
- 3. Humans take away animal's homes and their food by farming, when they cut down trees for wood, and when they look for oil.
- a. When the weather changes, animals can't find water & food easily.
- b. Pollution comes from cars, factories, heating & air conditioning.
- c. Cutting down trees and looking for oil damages animals' homes & takes away their food.

### 4. Paraphrasing can be done in different ways. Find examples of the following in sentences a – c

- Using a synonym or a word with a similar meaning
- Using different grammar
- Changing around the order of the sentence

### 5. Try to paraphrase the following sentences

- A. There are now more mountain gorillas than there were in the year 2000.
- B. Before that, people still hunted and killed these big, beautiful mammals or destroyed forests where they live.
- C. Wildlife groups worked hard to help the gorillas and now nearly half of them live safely in a National park in Rwanda, Central Africa.
- D. Scientists and tourists can watch them and study them in the National park.

### 6. The 3 sentences in exercise 5 could be summarized as they all discuss the same idea. Look at the following examples and choose the best summary. Why is it the best one?

- a. Wildlife groups stopped people killing & hunting gorillas as much as before. Now lots of them live in a national park where scientists and tourists can visit them.
- b. There are more gorillas than in 2000. Before people hunted and killed them and destroyed their forests. Groups helped the gorillas and half live in a National park where scientists can watch and study them.
- c. Gorillas are not in as much danger as before.

### Decide if the following statements about writing good summaries are true or false.

- a) A summary should be short *True*
- b) You should use your own words to express the ideas in the text. *True*
- c) You need to include all the information in the text. *False*

8. Try to summarize the sentences in exercise 5, using your paraphrased sentences.

9. Test your ability to distinguish between a quotation, a paraphrase and a summary. Begin by reading this.

Alexander Graham Bell is the man credited with inventing the telephone. He was born in Scotland in 1847, but later moved to Canada, where he taught deaf people. His invention was based on his discovery that sound waves could travel through wire; once electricity was added to his listening contraption it was possible to extend the distances that the sound waves could be sent. He registered his invention in 1876, thereby, ensuring his position in history as the man who invented the telephone.

Now compare these three statements to the previous extract.

1. "Alexander Graham Bell ... was born in Scotland in 1847, but later moved to Canada."
2. Alexander Graham Bell, who was born in Scotland in 1847 but later moved to Canada, invented the telephone after combining electricity with his discovery that sound waves can travel through wire. His invention was registered in 1876.
3. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone by making an appliance that permitted sound waves to travel through wire via an electric current. Which one is a direct quotation? Which one is a paraphrase? Which one is a summary?

10. Paraphrase the following paragraphs.

1. Hemmingway's work contains a lot of symbolism. In *The Old Man and The Sea*, the protagonist is struggling to capture a large marlin. His struggle against the marlin symbolizes the protagonist's struggle against defeat. Hemmingway's use of symbolism truly affects the way the reader reads and interprets his work.

2. Organic foods are said to be healthier because they are grown without pesticides, radiation, or genetic mutations that most non-organic food contains. Non-organic foods are often injected with hormones and dyes, which jeopardize the quality of the food.

3. "According to our survey, 30 percent of students agreed that the university should offer a money back guarantee if students fail to get the job they really want in their field because many students are finding themselves unemployed when they graduate" (Abram