

# Paraphrasing

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Paraphrasing is not a summary, because a summary usually focuses on a single main idea whereas paraphrasing requires putting an author's works into your own words

The meaning of the passage CANNOT change, if the meaning alters that means you are NOT paraphrasing

# Tricks to paraphrasing:

The four R's

1. **Reword** – replace words and phrases with synonyms whenever you can.
2. **Rearrange** – rearrange words within sentences to make new sentences. You can even rearrange the ideas presented within the paragraph.
3. **Realize** that some words and phrases cannot be changed – names, dates, titles etc. cannot be replaced, but you can present them differently in your paraphrase.
4. **Recheck** – make sure that your paraphrase conveys the same meaning as the original text.

# Techniques for paraphrasing:

## Changing vocabulary (with contextually suitable words):

Study ➡ research

Society ➡ civilization

Mud ➡ deposits

Note – not all words and phrases can be paraphrased. For example, *economics, socialism, global warming* etc., have no effective synonyms.

## Changing word class:

The culture of Egypt (n) ➡ Egyptian (adj) culture

In mountainous region (adj. + n.) ➡ in the mountains (n.)

## Changing word order:

Ancient Egypt collapsed ➡ the collapse of ancient Egypt began

# Examples:

1. “The end of civilization in the past has often being caused not by political or economic change as previously supposed, but by climatic change.” *Harvey Weiss and Raymond Bradley, 2001*

**Sample Paraphrase:**

Even though it was previously assumed that the downfall of earlier settlements was due to political or economic transformation, it is now believed that this was due to climatic change [1].

2. Recycling is not the best way to solve environmental problems because it uses plenty of energy in itself – reducing consumption would be much more effective. *Hwa Jin Lee, 1998*

**Sample Paraphrase:**

To address environmental issues, reduction of consumption is considered more effective than recycling as the process of recycling requires a large amount of energy.

# References:

- [1] K. Reuter, "Paraphrasing and Print Sources", *Wdbqschools.org*, 2016. [Online]. Available: <http://www.wdbqschools.org/Downloads/Paraphrasing%20-%20Librarian.pptx>. [Accessed: 11-Aug- 2019].
- [2] *English for Academic Purposes*, 2nd ed. Colombo: Department of Languages, University of Moratuwa, 2018.