

Reading Text 2

Practice Activity 1

- A. **SKIM** through the text 'Plagiarism in the Academic Community' in 3 minutes.
Answer the following questions.

Questions	Answers
1. What is the central idea of the text 'Plagiarism in the Academic Community'?	Hudson (1975) defines plagiarism and explains its penalties, types, and ways to acknowledge the sources.
2. What are the main ideas in the text?	
3. Which paragraph explains plagiarism by ignorance?	

Plagiarism in the Academic Community

Heurman Hudson

1975

Academic Essays

[P1] Scholars, writers, and teachers in the modern academic community have strong feelings about acknowledging the use of another person's ideas. In the English-speaking world, the term *plagiarism* is used to label the practice of not giving credit for the source of one's ideas. From an ancient Latin word meaning to kidnap or steal the child or slave of another, plagiarism is universally condemned in the modern academic world. It is equivalent to stealing the livelihood or savings of a worker, for it robs the original writer or scholar of the ideas and words by which he makes a living.

[P2] The penalties for plagiarism vary from situation to situation. In many universities, the punishment may range from failure in a particular course to exclusion from the university. In a literary world, where writers are protected from plagiarism by international copyright laws, the penalty may range from a small fine to imprisonment and a ruined career. Protection of scholars and writers, through the copyright laws and through the social pressures of the academic and literary communities, is a relatively recent concept. Such social pressures and copyright laws require writers to give scrupulous attention to the documentation of their sources.

[P3] Students, as inexperienced scholars themselves, must avoid various types of plagiarism by being **self-critical** in their use of other scholars' ideas and by giving appropriate credit for the source of borrowed ideas and words. There are at least three

classifications of plagiarism. It is revealed in students' inexactness in identifying sources properly. These categories are plagiarism by accident, by ignorance or by intention.

[P4] Plagiarism by accident, or oversight, sometimes is the result of the writers' inability to decide or remember where the idea came from. They may have read it long ago, heard it in a lecture since forgotten, or acquired it second-hand or third-hand from discussions with colleagues. Although this type of plagiarism is the least serious, it must be guarded against; the writers must make an effort to identify the source.

[P5] Plagiarism through ignorance is simply a way of saying that inexperienced writers often do not know how or when to acknowledge the sources. The techniques to avoid plagiarism- quoting, footnoting, listing bibliography- are easily learned. The writers have no scope to plead ignorance when their sources for ideas are challenged.

[P6] The most serious kind of academic thievery is plagiarism by intention. The writers, limited by their laziness and dullness, copy the thoughts and language of others and claim them for their own. They not only steal, but they also try to deceive the reader into believing the ideas are original. Such words as immoral, dishonest, offensive and despicable are used to describe the practice of plagiarism by intention.

[P7] The opposite of plagiarism is acknowledgment. All mature and trustworthy writers make use of the ideas of others, but they are careful to acknowledge their indebtedness to their sources. Students, as developing scholars, writers, teachers, and professional leaders, should recognize and assume their responsibility to document all sources from which language and thoughts are borrowed. Other members of the profession will not only respect the scholarship but will also admire the humility and honesty.

B. Read the following questions and answer them by SCANNING the text 'Plagiarism in the Academic Community' in 3 minutes.

Questions	Answers
1. Which laws protect the ideas of writers and scholars in the academic community?	
2. How many classifications of plagiarism are discussed in this text?	
3. Which techniques should we learn to avoid plagiarism?	
4. In paragraph 3, what does the word " self-critical " mean in the context?	