

L4 – Reading & Writing

Lesson 6

Today, we will...

1. Have a vocabulary quiz
2. Discuss what you've read
3. Summarizing & paraphrasing



Summarizing & Paraphrasing

Summarizing V.S. Paraphrasing

Summarizing aims to reduce information to a suitable length, allowing the writer to condense lengthy sources into a concise form.

Paraphrasing means changing the wording of a text so that it is significantly different from the original source, without changing the meaning.

Study the stages of summary writing below, which have been mixed up. Put them in the correct order.

- A. Write the summary from your notes, reorganizing the structure if needed.
- B. Make notes of the key points, paraphrasing where possible.
- C. Read the original text carefully and check any new or difficult vocabulary.
- D. Mark the key points by underlining or highlighting.
- E. Check the summary to ensure it is accurate and nothing important has been changed or lost.

Correct order for a summary

C. Read the original text carefully and check any new or difficult vocabulary.

D. Mark the key points by underlining or highlighting.

B. Make notes of the key points, paraphrasing where possible.

A. Write the summary from your notes, reorganizing the structure if needed.

E. Check the summary to ensure it is accurate and nothing important has been changed or lost.

Exercise 1

Read a short excerpt from a journal. Then try to summarize the information by using the steps of summary writing.

Journal of Experimental Psychology

by Hewlett

Baboons are able to think abstractly. It has been known for some time that chimpanzees are capable of abstract thought, but baboons are a more distant relation to mankind. In the experiment, we trained two baboons to use a personal computer and a joystick. The animals had to match computer designs which were basically the same but had superficial differences. The baboons performed better than would be expected by chance”.

Exercise 2

Read and compare the following summaries. Which one is the best summary?

(A) Hewlett stated in the *Journal of Experiment Psychology* that baboons had the ability to think in an abstract way. The animals were taught to use a computer, and then had to select similar patterns, which they did at a rate better than chance.

(A) Is the best summary

(B) Baboons are a kind of monkey more distant from man than chimpanzees. Although it is know that chimpanzees are able to think abstractly, until recently it was not clear if baboons could do the same. But Hewlett's research in *Journal of Experimental Psychology* has shown that this is so.

(B) Fails to describe the experiment

(C) According to recent article by Hewlett in the journal of Experimental Psychology, baboons are able to think in a abstract way. The article describes how researchers trained two baboons to use a personal computer and a joystick. The animals did better than would be expected.

(C) Fails to describe the most important part of the experiment

Remember! To avoid plagiarism, you must
acknowledge the source text

3 ways to acknowledge the source

1. By using adverbial adjuncts.

I.E. according to...

2. By using reporting verbs.

I.E. Dr. Frank states that...

3. By using nominalization.

I.E. Dr. Frank's assertion that...

Exercise 3

Try write a 50-word summary
for the following information.

Indian researchers are trying to find out if there is any truth in old sayings which claim to predict the weather. In Gujarat farmers have the choice of planting either peanuts, which are more profitable in wet years, or castor, which does better in drier conditions. The difference depends on the timing of the monsoon rains, which can arrive at any time between the beginning and the middle of June. Farmers, however, have to decide what seeds to sow in April or May. There is a local saying, at least a thousand years old, which claims that the monsoon starts 45 days after the flowering of a common tree, *Cassia fistula*. Dr Kanani, an agronomist from Gujarat Agricultural University, has been studying the relationship since 1996, and has found that the tree does successfully predict the approximate date of the monsoon's arrival.

Sample 50-word Summary

Indian scientists are checking ancient weather forecasting methods, such as the old saying that links the date of the monsoon to the flowering time of a local tree. This has been used by farmers to select either peanuts (for wet conditions) or castor (for dry). Dr. Kanani at Gujarat Agricultural University has found that the monsoon can be quite accurately forecast using the time of the tree's flowering.

Exercise 4

Try write a 20-word summary
for the summary you just did.

Indian scientists are checking ancient weather forecasting methods, such as the old saying that links the date of the monsoon to the flowering time of a local tree. This has been used by farmers to select either peanuts (for wet conditions) or castor (for dry). Dr. Kanani at Gujarat Agricultural University has found that the monsoon can be quite accurately forecast using the time of the tree's flowering.

Sample 20-word Summary

Recent Indian research confirms the accuracy of an ancient method of forecasting the monsoon's arrival used by farmers to choose crops.

Exercise 5

Try write a 50-word summary
for the following information.

Toto is a leading Japanese manufacturer of bathroom ceramics ware, with annual worldwide sales of around \$5 bn. One of its best-selling ranges is the Washlet lavatory, priced at up to \$5,000 and used in most Japanese homes. This has features such as a heated seat, and can play a range of sounds. This type of toilet is successful in its home market since many flats are small and crowded, and bathrooms provide valued privacy. Now Toto hopes to increase its sales in Europe and America, where it faces a variety of difficulties. European countries tend to have their own rules about lavatory design, so that different models have to be made for each market. Although Toto claims that its Washlet toilet uses less water than the average model, one factor which may delay its penetration into Europe is its need for an electrical socket for installation, as these are prohibited in bathrooms by most European building regulations.

Sample 50-word Summary

The Washlet is an expensive lavatory that is popular in Japan, with a range of special features. Its maker, the Toto company, is hoping to expand sales in the West, but different regulations about toilet design and electrical fittings make this a challenging goal.

④ Homework

1. Reading Assignment:

The City That Endures
Spotify Has a New Problem

Start looking for some articles!

2. Writing Assignment:

Pick a topic for your persuasive essay!



Thanks!

2455943146@qq.com