

PARAPHRASING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1

Read the original text below. Highlight the words that you think are specialised words or words that **should not be changed** when paraphrasing. Underline the words which **should be changed**.

The United States, Germany, Japan and other industrial powers are being transformed from industrial economies to knowledge and information based service economies, whilst manufacturing has been moving to low wage countries. In a knowledge and information based economy, knowledge and information are the key ingredients in creating wealth.

(Source: Laudon & Laudon 2002, *Management information systems: managing the digital firm*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey.)

ACTIVITY 2

Read the two paraphrases of the original text below. Select the statement that describes the **most appropriate paraphrase**.

Paraphrase 1

The United States, Germany, Japan and other economies are being dramatically changed from industrial economies to knowledge and information based service economies as manufacturing shifts to countries where the wages are low cost. In a knowledge and information based economies, knowledge and information are the focus in economic growth (Laudon & Laudon 2002).

Paraphrase 2

There has been a dramatic change in economies such as the United States, Japan and Germany from industrial to service economies involved in knowledge and information. As manufacturing shifts to countries where wages are low, economic growth and information economies must focus on knowledge and information production (Laudon & Laudon 2002).

- (a) Paraphrase 1 is acceptable because it closely follows the sentence structure of the original.
- (b) Both paraphrases are acceptable because some of the keywords have been changed.
- (c) Paraphrase 2 is not acceptable because the sentence structure has been changed.
- (d) Paraphrase 2 is acceptable because both the sentence structure and the keywords have been changed.
- (e) Paraphrase 2 is unacceptable because the subject of the first sentence is different from the original, i.e. 'dramatic change' rather than 'the United States, Germany and Japan'.

ACTIVITY 3

Find the words in Paraphrase 2 that replace the key words in the original text **highlighted in blue below**.

Paraphrase 2

The United States, Germany, Japan and **other industrial powers** are being **transformed** from industrial economies to knowledge and information based service economies, **whilst** manufacturing **has been moving** to **low wage countries**. In a knowledge and information based economy, knowledge and information are the **key ingredients** in creating wealth.

other industrial powers	=	_____
transformed	=	_____
whilst	=	_____
has been moving	=	_____
low wage countries	=	_____
key ingredients	=	_____

ACTIVITY 4

Build a paraphrase. Read the original text below and build a paraphrase from the selection of phrases provided on the next page.

Information systems make it possible for business to adopt flatter, more decentralised structures and more flexible arrangements for employees and management. Organisations are trying to become more competitive and efficient by transforming themselves into digital firms where nearly all core business process and relationships with customers, suppliers and employees are digitally managed (Laudon & Laudon 2002).

How would you begin your paraphrase?

Business can develop ...

- (a) more decentralised structures,
- (b) flatter, less centralised structures
- (c) centralised arrangements

Write Your Paraphrase Here

Now ask your partner/group to peer review your paraphrase.

You can also compare your paraphrase with a sample version overleaf.

ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 1

The **United States, Germany, Japan** and other industrial powers are being transformed from industrial **economies** to **knowledge** and **information** based service economies, whilst **manufacturing** has been moving to low wage countries. In a knowledge and information based economy, knowledge and information are the key ingredients in creating wealth.

ACTIVITY 2

(d) is correct – both the sentence structure and keywords have been changed.

ACTIVITY 3

other industrial powers	=	economies such as
transformed	=	dramatic change
whilst	=	as
has been moving	=	shifts to
low wage countries	=	countries where wages are low
key ingredients	=	focus on

ACTIVITY 4

Business can develop (b) flatter, less centralised structures....

Sample Paraphrase

Business can develop flatter, less centralised structures, as well as arrangements which allow for greater flexibility, through the application of information systems. The pressures of competition and efficiency require organisations to become digital companies where core dealings with customers, suppliers and employees are facilitated electronically.
