

# Summarizing

GETTING TO THE POINT



# Summary

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Short account of the **central ideas** of a text

**Summaries are not a place for...**

- Opinions
- Background knowledge
- Personal information

# How to summarize

1. Read the text.
  2. Don't let big words scare you.
  3. Ask, **"What was this text about?"**
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## Your Answer...

- **Should** be a complete sentence or two
- **Should** cover **main point** and **key ideas**
- **Should** be in your own words
- **Shouldn't** just be a word or two

# Should It go in my **Summary**?

Only major ideas and necessary information should go into a summary.

Ask yourself:

**“Do you need this information to understand the text?”**

If the answer is **yes**, put it into your own words in your summary.

# Main Idea and Key Points

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The **main idea** is what the text is about.

**Key points** are **arguments or information** that is used to support the main idea.

**Key points** may be developed or elaborated with **supporting details**.

Your **summary** should only include main ideas and key points, **not supporting details**.

# Example text

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A penny for your thoughts? If it's a 1943 copper penny, it could be worth as much as fifty thousand dollars. In 1943, most pennies were made out of steel since copper was needed for World War II, so, the 1943 copper penny is ultra-rare. Another rarity is the 1955 double die penny. These pennies were mistakenly double stamped, so they have overlapping dates and letters. If it's uncirculated, it'd easily fetch \$25,000 at an auction. Now that's a pretty penny.

## Response 1 – Incorrect Example

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*This text is about pennies.*

- This response is too short.
- It does not include key ideas.

## Response 2 – Incorrect Example

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*The 1943 copper penny is worth a lot of money. Copper was hard to get during the war so there aren't many of them. The 1955 double die penny is worth a lot too. These pennies were stamped twice on accident.*

- Too much unnecessary stuff.
- Main idea is not clear.



# The Most Appropriate Version

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*This text is about two very rare and valuable pennies: the 1943 copper penny and the 1955 double die penny.*

- Includes key information.
- Doesn't include unnecessary information
- Is a complete sentence.

# Task 01

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When one hears the term “reality” applied to a television show, one might expect that the events occurred naturally or, at the least, were not scripted, but this is not always the case. Many reality shows occur in unreal environments, like rented mansions occupied by film crews. These living environments do not reflect what most people understand to be “reality.” Worse, there have been accusations that events not captured on film were later restaged by producers. Worse still, some involved in the production of “reality” television claim that the participants were urged to act out story lines premeditated by producers. With such accusations floating around, it’s no wonder many people take reality TV to be about as real as the sitcom.

# Task 02

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There are many types of lethal venom in the animal kingdom, but perhaps no stranger carrier than the platypus. The platypus is one of few venomous mammals. Males carry a venom cocktail in their ankle spurs that paralyzes victims with excruciating pain. Stranger still, the platypus is the only mammal that uses electroreception. What this means is that the platypus uses its bill to sense the electricity produced by the muscular movements of its prey. The platypus neither sees, hears, nor smells its prey while hunting but, rather, pursues it through electroreception. Perhaps most odd, the platypus is the only mammal that lays eggs rather than giving birth to live young. The platypus is an odd creature indeed.