COMPUTING AND DIGITAL LITERACY

Copyright and Attribution

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Computing and Digital Literacy

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Overview of the concept

This is how you use other people's work fairly. If you use a photo in a school project, you credit the person who took it so your work is honest about what is yours and what is not. The same goes for a song in a video or a quote in an essay. Knowing the rules keeps you out of trouble and shows respect for the person who made the thing you are using.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q You use a photo by Ana Lee, shared under a free licence, in a school project. How do you give credit?

SOLUTION

Write a credit line: “Photo by Ana Lee, CC BY 4.0.”

The licence allows school use, but only if you give credit.

The line names the creator and the licence, so the reader knows who made it and how it may be used.

EXAMPLE 2

Q This sentence comes from Bee Facts, 2024: “Bees pollinate one third of crops.” How do you rewrite it in your own words and cite it?

SOLUTION

Changing a word or two is not enough: rewrite the idea, not the sentence.

“About a third of crops rely on bees for pollination.”

Then add the citation: (Source: Bee Facts, 2024). Rewriting without citing is still presenting someone else's idea as your own.

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Practice questions

1

You use a photo by Maya Chen, shared under CC BY 4.0, in a school project. Write the credit line.

A Photo by Maya Chen

B Maya Chen, CC BY 4.0

C Photo by Maya Chen, CC BY 4.0

D Photo by Maya Chen, all rights reserved

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2

What does the “CC BY 4.0” in this credit line tell the reader? “Photo by Maya Chen, CC BY 4.0.”

A The licence the photo is shared under

B The date the photo was taken

C The camera the photo was taken with

D The price of the photo

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3

Rewrite this sentence in your own words and cite it: “The moon orbits Earth once every 27 days.” (Source: Moon Facts, 2024.)

A “The moon takes 27 days to go around Earth.” (Source: Moon Facts, 2024.)

B “The moon circles Earth once every 27 days.” (Source: Moon Facts, 2024.)

C “The moon takes 27 days to go around the Sun.” (Source: Moon Facts, 2024.)

D “The moon takes 27 days to go around Earth.”

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4

Rewrite this sentence in your own words and cite it: “Wolves hunt in packs.” (Source: Wolf Facts, 2023.)

A “Wolves live and hunt together in groups.” (Source: Wolf Facts, 2023.)

B “Wolves hunt in a pack.” (Source: Wolf Facts, 2023.)

C “Wolves live and hunt alone.” (Source: Wolf Facts, 2023.)

D “Wolves live and hunt together in groups.”

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5 You find a picture with no creator named and no licence shown. Can you use it freely? What should you do?

- **A** Yes, you can use it freely.
- **B** No. Ask permission, or find a picture with a free licence.
- **C** No, you can never use any picture.
- **D** Yes, if you do not sell it.

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6 What does “CC BY” usually require?

- **A** Credit to the creator
- **B** You may use it without credit.
- **C** You must pay the creator.
- **D** You must ask the creator's school.

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7 What is plagiarism?

- A Forgetting to add a title
- B Using a photo with a free licence
- C Citing a source correctly
- D Presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own

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8 True or false: giving credit always makes any use legal.

- A True
- B False

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9 **You copy a sentence word for word into your essay. What two things must you do?**

- **A** Put it in quotation marks and cite the source.
- **B** Put it in quotation marks only.
- **C** Cite the source only.
- **D** Change a few words and do nothing else.

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10 **“Water boils at 100°C” is common knowledge. Do you need to cite it?**

- **A** Yes
- **B** No

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ANSWER KEY

1. Photo by Maya Chen, CC BY 4.0
2. The licence the photo is shared under
3. One possible option: “The moon takes 27 days to go around Earth.” (Source: Moon Facts, 2024.)
4. One possible option: “Wolves live and hunt together in groups.” (Source: Wolf Facts, 2023.)
5. No. Ask permission, or find a picture with a free licence.
6. Credit to the creator
7. Presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own
8. False
9. Put it in quotation marks and cite the source.
10. No

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