ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Paraphrasing

Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you explain someone else's idea in your own words, like telling a friend what a news article said without copying it. A student paraphrases a textbook paragraph to show they understood it, and a worker paraphrases a doctor's instructions to a family member so everyone is clear. Copying word for word is easy but proves nothing, while putting it in your own words proves you actually got it. It is also how you avoid plagiarism and still use what you read.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q How can you paraphrase this sentence: 'The dog barked loudly all night.'?

SOLUTION

Understand the idea: a dog made loud barking sounds through the night.

Rewrite it with different words and structure, keeping the meaning.

So a paraphrase is: Throughout the night, the dog kept making loud barking sounds.

EXAMPLE 2

Q How can you paraphrase this sentence: 'She ran quickly to school.'?

SOLUTION

Understand the idea: she hurried to school.

Rewrite it with different words and structure, keeping the meaning.

So a paraphrase is: She hurried to school.

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Practice questions

1 **Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'The sun shone brightly.'?**

- **A** The sun gave out strong light.
- **B** The sun shone dimly.
- **C** The moon gave out strong light.
- **D** The sun was very hot.

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2 **Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'He ate his lunch fast.'?**

- **A** He ate his breakfast fast.
- **B** He ate his lunch quickly.
- **C** He ate his dinner fast.
- **D** He ate his lunch slowly.

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3 Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'The book was very interesting.'?

A The book was very boring.

B The book was very short.

C The book was fascinating.

D The book was very long.

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4 Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'They played soccer after school.'?

A They played basketball after school.

B They played soccer before school.

C They played soccer after lunch.

D After school, they played soccer.

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5 Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'The rain stopped in the afternoon.'?

- A In the afternoon, the rain ended.
- B The rain started in the afternoon.
- C The rain stopped in the evening.
- D The rain stopped in the morning.

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6 Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'She is a talented singer.'?

- A She is a talented dancer.
- B She sings very well.
- C She is a talented painter.
- D She sings very badly.

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7 Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'We walked to the park.'?

A We walked to the beach.

B We ran to the park.

C We went to the park on foot.

D We walked to the school.

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8 Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'The test was difficult.'?

A The test was easy.

B The test was short.

C The test was long.

D The test was hard.

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9 Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'He finished his homework early.'?

- A He finished his chores early.
- B He completed his homework ahead of time.
- C He finished his homework late.
- D He started his homework early.

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10 Which of these is the best paraphrase of 'The garden is full of flowers.'?

- A The garden is full of weeds.
- B The garden is full of trees.
- C The garden is empty of flowers.
- D Many flowers grow in the garden.

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ANSWER KEY

1. The sun gave out strong light.
2. He ate his lunch quickly.
3. The book was fascinating.
4. After school, they played soccer.
5. In the afternoon, the rain ended.
6. She sings very well.
7. We went to the park on foot.
8. The test was hard.
9. He completed his homework ahead of time.
10. Many flowers grow in the garden.

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