PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

Summarizing Material

Difficulty level: Easy

Practical and Financial Literacy

This document was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Overview of the concept

This is how you boil a chapter, an article, or a lesson down to its main ideas in your own words, so you can revise from a short summary instead of rereading everything. A good summary keeps the ideas that matter and drops the examples and details you do not need to remember. Writing it in your own words also shows whether you actually understood it, because you cannot summarise what you have not grasped. That short version is what you revise from before a test, instead of starting the whole chapter again.



© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Summarize a paragraph

SOLUTION

Paragraph: a long account of how bees pollinate flowers.

Summary: 'Bees carry pollen between flowers, letting plants make

seeds.' One sentence, main idea only, no copied wording.

Read the whole paragraph and ask: what is its one main idea?

Write that idea in one sentence, in your own words.

Check it against the original: does it keep the meaning and drop the detail?

EXAMPLE 2

Q Summarize a chapter

SOLUTION

Chapter: five sections on the water cycle.

Summary: 5 lines, one per section, each naming its key process.

Evaporation, condensation, precipitation, collection, and back again.

List the chapter's sections, one line each.

Write one short line per section naming its key process.

Read the five lines together: they should retell the chapter without its detail.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Practice questions

1

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence, in your own words: 'Penguins cannot fly, but they swim fast in cold seas. They eat fish and krill, and they huddle together to keep warm.' What is the main idea?

A Penguins fly south for the winter.

B Penguins eat only krill.

C Penguins swim fast, eat fish and krill, and huddle together to keep warm.

D Penguins live alone in warm seas.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

2

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence, in your own words: 'The moon travels around Earth once every 27 days. As it moves, the amount of sunlight we see on it changes, which is why the moon seems to change shape.' What is the main idea?

A. The moon orbits Earth and seems to change shape as the lit part we see changes.

B. The moon travels around the sun once every 27 days.

C. The moon always looks the same shape.

D. The moon makes its own light.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

3 Which order of steps for writing a summary is correct?

- **A** Read the material, pick out the main ideas, write them in your own words, check against the original
- **B** Write the summary first, then read the material
- **C** Copy the first sentence of each paragraph
- **D** List every detail, then shorten the list

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

4 Should a summary copy the original's wording?

- A Yes, copy it word for word.
- B Yes, but only the first sentence.
- C No, it should leave out the main ideas.
- D No, it should use your own words

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 How long should a summary of a two-page chapter be?

- A About two pages
- B A few sentences
- C One word
- D Longer than the chapter

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

6

A chapter has four sections: the sun, the moon, the stars, and the planets. Write a four-line summary, one line per section.

- **A** The sun orbits Earth. The moon gives light and heat. Stars are nearby planets. Planets orbit the moon.
- **B** The sun gives light and heat. The moon orbits Earth. Stars are distant suns.
- **C** The sun gives light and heat. The moon orbits Earth. Stars are distant suns. Planets orbit the sun.
- **D** The sun, the moon, the stars, and the planets are all the same thing.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7

A chapter has five sections. How many lines might a section-by-section summary have?

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

8

A summary has one line per section. A chapter has 3 sections, but the summary has only 2 lines. What is missing?

A One section is missing

B The summary is too long

C The summary copied the original

D Nothing is missing

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9

What is a summary?

A A copy of the whole original.

B A list of every detail in the original.

C A new story about the same topic.

D A short version of material giving its main ideas

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

10

What should you do after writing a summary?

A Check it against the original for accuracy

B Throw the original away.

C Add new facts to it.

D Copy it out again in full.

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

ANSWER KEY

1. Penguins swim fast, eat fish and krill, and huddle together to keep warm.

2. The moon orbits Earth and seems to change shape as the lit part we see changes.

3. Read the material, pick out the main ideas, write them in your own words, check against the original

4. No, it should use your own words

5. A few sentences

6. The sun gives light and heat. The moon orbits Earth. Stars are distant suns. Planets orbit the sun.

7. 5

8. One section is missing

9. A short version of material giving its main ideas

10. Check it against the original for accuracy

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.