

Summary Writing 1C: STEM EXAMPLE

Aim: To support students in their understanding of what a summary is, the steps in writing a summary and practice in using the suggested steps to produce five summaries.

Time: 90+ minutes.

Delivery: This lesson can be delivered face-to-face or online. For online delivery, each worksheet could be placed in a class document on OneDrive or OneNote.

Lead in

- Distribute or project **worksheet 1**. Students complete **tasks 1 – 4**.
- Feedback: nominate individual students to answer, then display **ANSWERS** to **tasks 2 & 3**.

Skills Support

- Distribute or project the ‘**Suggested Steps in Writing Summaries**’. Students read and compare their ideas from **task 4**.

Guided Practice

- There are five practice summary writing tasks (**worksheets 2,3,4,5 & 6**) and they all follow the same format:
 1. Read.
 2. Take notes.
 3. Write summary.
 4. Compare with a group.
 5. Compare with the model answer.
 6. Identify strengths and weaknesses.

Reflection/Classroom Assessment Techniques

- Distribute or project **worksheet 7**. Students complete **task 1**: answer the true/false statements to assess their summary writing skills.
- Feedback: distribute or display the **ANSWERS** to **task 1**.
- Students complete **task 2 & 3**: Classroom Assessment Techniques. This will help the teacher gauge who needs more support.
- If students need more support with their summary writing: <https://academic-englishuk.com/summary-skills/>
- Go here: <https://academic-englishuk.com/summary-skills/> for summary writing 2C: STEM.

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Worksheet 1: Introduction to summary writing

Task 1

- Which of the following statements are true for you? Compare with a partner. Do you have similar answers?

		Yes	No	Not Sure
1.	I understand what a summary is.			
2.	I [redacted]			
3.	I understand what information should and should not be included in a summary.			
4.	I always [redacted] notes.			
5.	I understand that I will have to write summaries on the course I'm currently on.			

Task 2

- Complete the gaps in the summary definition using a word from the box. Compare with your partner when you've finished.

points words [redacted] third text [redacted]

A summary is a synthesis of the main _____ of an article written in your own _____. It is a [redacted] information and condensing it so that it is no more than a _____ of the length of the original _____. A good summary illustrates that [redacted]

Task 3

- Rewrite the summary definition in one sentence. Compare with a small group. Who has the best one? Why?

Task 4

- With your group, what are the steps to writing a good summary?

Steps

Suggested Steps in Writing Summaries

Task 1

- Read the following information on how to write a summary and then compare with your answers from **worksheet 1 task 4**.

1.	Read the source text.	Read the article as many times as you need to. You won't be able to write a good summary if you don't understand the source text.
2.	Make notes.	Note down the key information and important supporting details, but avoid examples, dates, numbers, statistics and data.
3.	Write the summary from your notes.	Use your own words but keep the key words of the original text, and use transition words to link ideas. Don't add your own opinion.
4.	Add the reference.	Check what referencing system your school uses (Vancouver, Harvard, APA) and then add the in-text citation and the full reference.
5.	Reread the original.	Check you haven't forgotten important information and check you haven't misunderstood any of the ideas.
6.	Proofread and edit.	Read through your summary carefully. Can it be made more concise? Are there any language errors?

Worksheet 2: Guided Practice

Task 1

- You're going to write a summary of between 30-50 words of the following paragraph using the 'suggested steps in writing summaries'.

Behavioural economics

Behavioural economics is a field of economics that incorporates the studies of psychology, neuroscience and sociology to better [REDACTED] (The Observer, 2017). This fairly new subject aims to gain a deeper understanding of why people, at [REDACTED] thoughts and emotions that underpin the decisions made (The Guardian, 2017). Decisions, [REDACTED] pay more for a certain brand, how much to spend on a holiday and which candidate to support in a [REDACTED] and it is this mechanism that behavioural economists attempt to understand in [REDACTED]

Note-taking area

Summary

Task 2

- Compare with your partner. Have you included the same points?
- Compare with the model answer.
- How are you going to improve your next one? Complete the sentence below.

I'm going to improve by:

Worksheet 3: Guided Practice

Task 2

- You're going to write a summary of between 30-50 words of the following paragraph using the 'suggested steps in writing summaries'.

Recycling aluminium

Aluminium has become one of the most recyclable materials on the market, largely due to the fact that it is a permanently available resource across [REDACTED] and extremely energy efficient. According to Alupro (2021), the process of recycling aluminium [REDACTED] emissions are cut by 97% and energy required is reduced by 95%. For this reason, brands in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] plastic to aluminium, as its increased durability and resistance to corrosion make it ideal for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] sustainable.

Note-taking area

Summary

Task 2

- Compare with your partner. Have you included the same points?
- Compare with the model answer.
- How are you going to improve your next one? Complete the sentence below.

I'm going to improve by:

Worksheet 4: Guided Practice

Task 1

- You're going to write a summary of between 60-100 words of the following paragraph using the 'suggested steps in writing summaries'.

Smart watches

Wearable technology, in particular smart watches, has become increasingly mainstream over the last decade, as a result of exponential [redacted]. Smart watches [redacted] rate through the use of green light, also known as photoplethysmography. As red blood vessels expand, they absorb more green light, and less when they contract. Via a software algorithm, [redacted] [redacted] however, some scepticism surrounding the reliability of these algorithms, as skin pigmentations could [redacted]. Another key feature of the most advanced smart watches is pulse oximetry, which monitors the oxygen [redacted]. The smart watch is able to measure if more infrared light is absorbed than red light, and therefore calculate if the haemoglobin is oxygenated, or deoxygenated if [redacted] is especially [redacted] sleep apnoea, as if it is left untreated, it could lead to high blood pressure, diabetes and cardiovascular disease (O'Donoghue, 2021).

Note-taking area

Summary

Task 2

- Compare with your partner. Have you included the same points?
- Compare with the model answer.
- How are you going to improve your next one? Complete the sentence below.

I'm going to improve by:

Worksheet 5: Guided Practice

Task 2

- You're going to write a summary of between 60-100 words of the following paragraph using the 'suggested steps in writing summaries'.

Responsible tourism

Responsible tourism, or often referred to as sustainable tourism, is the practice of minimising any negative social, environmental or [redacted] that is being visited. It requires that travel operators, hoteliers, governments and even local people as well as tourists [redacted] cultural heritage and traditional values are conserved and respected as well as generating [redacted]. [redacted] sustainable tourism is regarding environmental impacts. As set out by UNWTO (2021), the promotion of sustainable practices by host nations such as [redacted] landscapes, [redacted] natural habitats, reducing air and water pollution and curtailing the use of non-renewable sources of energy is [redacted]. Of the 8% of carbon emissions attributed to the tourism industry, more than 5% of those are due to transportation. Thus, it is even more crucial that tourists must take into account [redacted]. [redacted] also how they travel to their destination of choice.

Note-taking area

Summary

Task 2

- Compare with your partner. Have you included the same points?
- Compare with the model answer.
- How are you going to improve your next one? Complete the sentence below.

I'm going to improve by:

Worksheet 6: Guided Practice

Task 1

- You're going to write a summary of between 90-150 words of the following paragraph using the 'suggested steps in writing summaries'.

5G

5G is the most recent generation of wireless, mobile phone technology. Launched in 2019, it replaces both 3G, which enabled the [redacted] browsing and clearer voice calls. As reported by Ofcom (2021), 5G not only offers even faster speeds and [redacted] thanks to a reduction in latency and enhanced connectivity. 5G's potential to allow existing [redacted] has [redacted] a number of fields, such as agriculture, transport, manufacturing and healthcare. One such example [redacted] workers to discover if a patient is dehydrated or has not taken their prescribed medication via biomonitors. Meanwhile in [redacted] to apply fertiliser [redacted] the precise location where it is needed through the use of video sensors. Despite these real benefits, there are strong reservations [redacted] of a high level of exposure to radiation. 5G requires a frequency of at least 3.5 GHz, which is approximately the same [redacted]. According to WHO (2021), there is currently no evidence to suggest that this frequency would [redacted] to increase, then absorption of the energy from radiofrequency fields to the human body would be [redacted]. Moreover, as 5G networks rely on higher frequency waves, they will need to use more transmitter [redacted] [redacted] who are worried about residing nearby. However, experts have stated that a mast of at least [redacted]

Note-taking area

Write your summary on the next page.

Summary

Task 2

- Compare with your partner. Have you included the same points?
- Compare with the model answer.
- Have you improved your summary writing ability in today's session? Answer the true/false questions in worksheet 7.

Worksheet 7: Reflection

Task 1

- What do you remember about summary writing? Complete the following statements and then compare with your group.

	Are the following statements true or false?	True	False	Not Sure
1.	A summary needs to be the same length as the original article.			
2.	You _____ text before you start writing a summary.			
3.	You should _____ write a summary.			
4.	You don't need to use your own words when writing a summary. _____			
5.	You should include as many examples, statistics and figures as you can in your summary.			
6.	You should _____			
7.	You need to add your own opinion to the summary.			
8.	You should always reference your summary.			
9.	You don't _____			
10.	It's a good idea to reread the original source to make sure you _____			

Task 2

- Do you feel that you have made progress today in your summary writing? Tick the box that is true for you.

	Statement	Tick
1.	I still don't feel confident at writing summaries.	
2.	I feel a little more confident at writing summaries.	
3.	I feel a lot more confident at writing summaries.	

Task 3

- Do you have any questions about writing summaries for your teacher?

Write your questions here...

Summary Writing **ANSWERS**

Worksheet 1

Task 2

Definition of a Summary

A summary is a synthesis of the main **points** of an article written in your own **words**. It is a [redacted] and condensing it so that it is no more than a **third** of the length of the original **text**. A good summary [redacted] clearly.

Worksheet 1

Task 3

Sample Paraphrase

A summary is a reduced version of the [redacted] and demonstrates your comprehension of the text.

Worksheet 2

Sample Notes

Behav, Econ. = econ. + psy, neurosci + sociol.

Aim = [redacted]. (The Observer, 2017).

New sub. → deep undRst why ppl make rash D & thoughts [redacted] dec. (The Guardian, 2017).

E.g, pay + 4 cert. brand, how [redacted] DM. (Samson, 2018).
[redacted] undRst DM to predict hum. bev.

Sample Summary

The Observer (2017) defines behavioural economics as a combination of economics and psychological [redacted] process of individuals in order to predict human behaviour (Samson, 2017). Behavioural economists [redacted] to the decisions made (The Guardian, 2017).

Worksheet 3

Task 1

Sample Notes

Al = resist. 2 corrosion & [redacted]
[redacted] carb. emiss. (Alupro, 2021).

key 2 health & beauty ind.
[redacted]

Sample Summary

Aluminium recycling

Alpro (2021) claims that aluminium [redacted] and beauty industry [redacted] and continuous availability. It is one of the most recyclable products as it takes just 60 days to recycle requiring [redacted] emissions.

Worksheet 4

Task 1

Sample Notes

2 main func. of smart watches

1. monitor heart rate: red blood [redacted] – green light
[redacted] = pulse rate

2. measure oxygen saturation: + infrared [redacted]
v. import. [redacted]. or cardiovascular dis. (O'Donoghue, 2021)

Sample Summary

Smart watches

O'Donoghue (2021) explains that smart watches are designed to [REDACTED] the [REDACTED]. As red blood vessels absorb more green light when they expand, and less when they contract, the [REDACTED] to determine a pulse [REDACTED]. Smart watches can also measure the oxygen saturation of blood by determining if more infrared light passes [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] in preventing high blood pressure or cardiovascular disease.

Worksheet 5

Task 2

Sample Notes

respon. tourism = lessen neg. impacts on society, planet & econ....

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ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...