

Writing Exercise - paraphrasing

Topic: general paraphrasing skills

Computers / phones

Time: 60 minutes

Level: *****[B1/B2/C1]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to paraphrase effectively using internet tools and going through a 3-stage process.

1. Lead in - what is a paraphrase

- Give out **Worksheet #1** and ask students to identify 'a quotation, a paraphrase, a summary' (explain differences - see answers).
- Section 2: ask students to discuss which is the better paraphrase between a) or b) (look at teacher's answers to explain).

2. The tools

- Ask students to open 4 windows on their computer and explain the 4 websites (**Worksheet #2**) go here for more info: <https://academic-englishuk.com/writing-websites>
- Give out **Worksheet #3 Paraphrasing**. Go through the four rules at the top of the page. **1) Highlight key words. 2) Find synonyms. 3) Rewrite Grammar. 4) Check meaning.**
- Go through the first example as a class. (Look at answers before the class and highlight each stage). **1** elicit key words in the sentence. **2**) ask the students to find four synonyms for each non-key word. Feedback as a class on the board. Ask the students to choose a synonym for each word and rewrite the sentence using these synonyms. **3**) ask the students to change the grammar into the passive by using 'Information' as the subject. **4**) Add the reference and check meaning.
- **Practice 1 & 2:** Let the students do the next exercise on their own. Teacher monitors and guides. Feedback as class for each activity - teacher provides a model answer.
- **More Practice Activity** - students work on their own practising paraphrasing. Teacher monitors and guides. Feedback as a class or individually with answer key.

Disclaimer: there is not a set answer - accept students' paraphrases if meaning hasn't changed

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Paraphrasing #1

1. Which is a summary / quotation / paraphrase?

- A. Smith (2021, p.221) states that “Exeter Council spends £3.3 million each year on biofuel heating [redacted] oil and gas”.
- B. Smith (2021) highlights [redacted] Exeter Council from changing to biofuel sustainable energy.
- C. Smith (2021) suggests that [redacted] on heating from changing to sustainable energy.

2. Student paraphrasing

Original source:

“Exeter Council spends £3.3 million each year on biofuel heating rather than the £7 million it would spend if it still relied on oil and gas” (Smith, 2021, p.221).

Which paraphrase is better and why?

Student paraphrase A

- Smith (2021) highlights that Exeter Council pays £3.3 million every year on biofuel heating in [redacted] oil and gas.

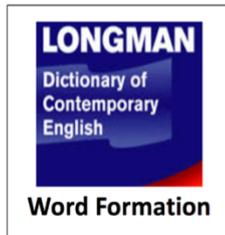
Student paraphrase B

- Smith (2021) highlights [redacted] from changing to biofuel sustainable energy.

Paraphrasing #2

Tools for paraphrasing

Useful websites



www.ldoceonline.com



www.google.com



www.thesaurus.com



www.ozdic.com

Longman Online Dictionary (English to English)

www.ldoceonline.com. This dictionary provides an in-depth explanation, key pronunciation and word forms. At university level English learning it's a good idea to use an English-to-English dictionary to check unknown words and improve your lexical repertoire (knowledge of words).

Google Synonym Search

Use [Google](http://www.google.com) or [Bing](http://www.bing.com) to search for key synonyms (similar words). This can be done through typing the word 'analysis' followed by 'syn' = '*analysis syn*'. This provides a wide range of synonyms.

Thesaurus Synonym Search

www.thesaurus.com is a versatile website that offers a good range of synonyms (similar words). It divides the lists into two key groups of dark orange for most frequent to light orange not so frequent.

Ozdic Collocation Search

www.ozdic.com is an excellent website that offers key collocations (words and phrases that go together). This collocation search will help fluency in writing and use more academic formal vocabulary. Below is an example of a collocation search for 'analysis'. It shows key adjectives and verbs used with analysis

Paraphrasing #3

1. **Highlight important words / key terms** (words that cannot be changed)
2. **Find synonyms / alternative words** for high frequency words
3. **Change grammar:** active to passive, nouns to verbs, adjectives to adverbs, word order
4. **Check meaning**

Class Example

1) "Memory is the [redacted] information" (Smith, 2021)

2) "Memory is the [redacted] information" (Smith, 2021)

3) Information _____

_____ (Smith, 2021)

Teacher's example:

_____ (Smith, 2021)

Practice 1

1) Jones et al. (2021, p.23) states that “there are thought to be over 4,000 plant species
[redacted] alone”.

2) Jones et al. (2021, p.23) states that “there are thought to be over 4,000 plant species
[redacted] alone”.

3) _____

Teacher’s example:

Practice 2

1) “Paul Ekman from the University of California has conducted a long series of experiments on [REDACTED]” (taken from John Wilson’s book in 2021 on page 50).

2) “Paul Ekman from the University of California has conducted a long series of experiments on [REDACTED]” (taken from John Wilson’s book in 2021 on page 50).

3) _____

Teacher’s example:

More Practice Activity

Paraphrase 1

"A key feature was to [redacted] disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds and to encourage participation of individuals from families with [redacted] education" (Bachan, 2021).

1. Synonyms:

2. Restructure:

Paraphrase 2

"[redacted] of substantial returns to higher education qualifications, which is [redacted]" (Psacharopoulos & Patrinos, 2021).

1. Synonyms:

2. Restructure:

Paraphrase 3

"Studies in the USA also find [redacted] with term-[redacted] a detrimental effect on academic performance and future career choice" (Bachan, 2021).

1. Synonyms:

2. Restructure:

Adapted from: Bachan, R. (2021) Students' expectations of debt in UK higher education. *Studies in Higher Education*, Vol. 39 (5)

Paraphrasing **Answers**

Which is a summary / quotation / paraphrase?

Quotation: is the exact words taken from the source. Use speech marks / quotation marks "....."

Smith (2021, p.221) states that "Exeter Council spends £3.3 million each year on biofuel heating rather than £7 million it would spend if it still relied on oil and gas".

Paraphrase: your understanding of the source in your words.

(No page number in Harvard Referencing)

ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PAID VERSION