

How To Do Paraphrase

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1. Using synonyms (words that mean the same)

Source text	Paraphrase
The need for investors to earn a commercial return may put upward pressure on prices	The need for profit is likely to <i>push up</i> prices

Here; “may” is replaced with “is likely to” and “put upward pressure on” is replaced with “push up”.

Be careful when using synonyms. Many words have several meanings, **depending on context**, and you have to think about the synonym which expresses the right meaning for the particular context.

2. Changing the form of words

Source text	Paraphrase
Privatisation has failed on several counts	Bayliss & McKinley (2007) point out that the failure of privatisation is due to many factors
The region (Sub-Saharan Africa) is widely perceived as risky by investors.	Investment in the region is considered a significant risk (Bayliss, 2003)

In the first paraphrase a verb has been replaced with a noun from the same word family. In the second an adjective has been replaced by a noun.

3. Changing the grammatical structure

Source text	Paraphrase
While many governments have taken steps to implement privatisation programmes, progress has been slower than was anticipated in the early 1980's.	According to Bayliss (2003), although the implementation of privatisation programmes has been a priority for many governments, progress in the area has not been as rapid as expected in the early 1980's.

Here one grammatical structure for making a comparison (“slower than”) has been replaced with another (“not as rapid as”).

4. Using several techniques

Source text	Paraphrase
<p>...the privatisation of such strategic industries has raised a number of concerns. Firstly, these enterprises are usually monopolistic and, in the absence of competition, require effective regulation if private ownership is to be beneficial for the wider economy.</p>	<p>Due to the vital role they play in a country's infrastructure, it is essential for the operation of privatised water utilities to be regulated effectively. This is because they usually have a monopoly, and without competition there is no incentive to keep tariffs low or provide a high standard of service. (Bayliss 2003).</p>

In this final example, you will notice that:

- the order in which information is presented is different in the paraphrase
- different word forms in the same word family have been used (effective regulation > regulated effectively)
- synonyms have been used (in the absence of competition > without competition).

- **Original:** Her life spanned years of incredible change for women as they gained more rights than ever before.
Paraphrase: She lived through the exciting era of women's liberation.

- **Original:** Giraffes like Acacia leaves and hay, and they can consume 75 pounds of food a day.
Paraphrase: A giraffe can eat up to 75 pounds of Acacia leaves and hay daily.

- ***Original:*** Any trip to Italy should include a visit to Tuscany to sample the region's exquisite wines.
Paraphrase: Be sure to make time for a Tuscan wine-tasting experience when visiting Italy.
- ***Original:*** Symptoms of influenza include fever and nasal congestion.
Paraphrase: A stuffy nose and elevated temperature are signs you may have the flu.

- ***Original:*** The price of a resort vacation typically includes meals, tips and equipment rentals, which makes your trip more cost-effective.
Paraphrase: All-inclusive resort vacations can make for an economical trip.
- ***Original:*** He has tons of stuff to throw away.
Paraphrase: He needs to get rid of a lot of junk.

- **Original Passage:**

- In *The Sopranos*, the mob is besieged as much by inner infidelity as it is by the federal government. Early in the series, the greatest threat to Tony's Family is his own biological family. One of his closest associates turns witness for the FBI, his mother colludes with his uncle to contract a hit on Tony, and his kids click through Web sites that track the federal crackdown in Tony's gangland.

- **Paraphrase Passage:**

- **In the first season of *The Sopranos*, Tony Soprano's mobster activities are more threatened by members of his biological family than by agents of the federal government. This familial betrayal is multi-pronged. Tony's closest friend and associate is an FBI informant, his mother and uncle are conspiring to have him killed, and his children are surfing the Web for information about his activities.**
- The main point of this passage is that problems within the family are as bad as, if not worse than, problems caused by the federal government. Details about this betrayal include someone close turning informant, a hit being put out on Tony by family members, and Tony's kids tracking his activities. As you can see, the main idea and important details are included in the paraphrased version, though the wording is quite different.

- Here is a summary of some of the main changes made during the paraphrasing process:
 - Early in the series = first season
 - Greatest threat = more threatened
 - One of his closest associates = closest friend and associate
 - His mother colludes with his uncle = his mother and uncle are conspiring
 - His kids click through Web sites = his children are surfing the Web