

Techniques for paraphrasing

Here are some techniques to use when paraphrasing.

Remember that these techniques should only be used once you have ensured you fully understood the text; do not try to paraphrase a text you have not understood.

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 In the second an adjective has been replaced by a noun.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").

REMEMBER!

1. Find the important ideas, write down the important words/phrases and find alternative words, or synonyms. **Keep specialised vocabulary** and common words.

Examples:

a) **Memory** is the capacity for storing and retrieving information.

Memory is the facility for keeping and recovering data.

2. Change the grammar of the text:

change nouns to verbs

This rewriting of history was not so much a matter of a new start.

This rewriting of history was not so much a matter of starting again.

change verbs to nouns

The Normans invaded in 1066.

The Norman invasion took place in 1066.

The bomb exploded and caused many casualties.

The explosion caused many casualties.

change adverbs to adjectives

He wrote frequently.

He wrote on frequent occasions.

Politically, it was a bad decision.

From a political point of view, it was a bad decision.

Change active verbs to passive

The UK has increased measures to combat the virus known as Covid-19.

The measures in the UK have been increased to combat the virus known as Covid-19.

<http://www.uefap.com/writing/report/repfram.htm>

https://opencourses.uoc.gr/courses/pluginfile.php/16678/mod_resource/content/0/Presentation%209%20-%20Paraphrasing%20techniques.pdf

Change sentence patterns

Although only about one-tenth of the world's population lives there, sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest hit region, accounting for 72 percent of the people infected with HIV during 2000.

Approximately 10 percent of the world's population resides in sub-Saharan Africa. ***However***, this area of the world has the highest percentage of AIDS-related illnesses. ***In fact***, in 2000, almost three-fourths of the population had HIV virus.

Change percentages&numbers

Minority groups in the United States have been hit hardest by the epidemic. African Americans , who make up ***13 percent of the U.S population*** , accounted for ***46 percent*** of the AIDS cases diagnosed in 1998.

The AIDS epidemic has mostly affected minorities in the United States. For example, in 1998, ***less than fifteen percent of*** the total population was African, but ***almost half of the people*** diagnosed with AIDS in the United States that year were African American.