

Paraphrasing

1. Definition :

Changing a sentence into another without changing its original meaning.

2. Paraphrasing techniques :

Technique 1 : Find equivalents for words in the sentence

Example 1: The diagram below *shows the process* by which bricks are *manufactured* in the building industry.

→ The diagram below *illustrates how* bricks are *made* in the construction industry.

Technique 2 : Change the part of speech of the words in the sentence (change nouns to verbs , verbs to nouns, or adjectives to nouns.

Example 2 : The line graph below shows relative price **changes** for fruits and vegetables between 1979 and 2009.

→ The line graph below shows how the relative prices for fruits and vegetables **changed** between 1979 and 2009.

Technique 3 : change the grammar structures by, for example, changing the sentence from the active voice to the passive voice, or by changing a phrase into a clause.

Example 3: They **built** this arts center over a 14 year period.

→ This arts center **was built** over a 14 year period.

Having known him for so long, I never suspected him to be the kidnapper.

→ I never suspected him to be the kidnapper because **I had known him for so long**.

Tecnique 4 : change the order of information

Example 4 : They are planning to hold a conference at the Plaza hotel **next March**.

Next March, a conference is being held at the Plaza hotel.

Other examples and techniques/recommendations :

*Having failed to secure a definitive result from the hundreds of experiments he had conducted, **Professor Talbot finally had to resign himself to the fact that his original hypothesis must have been flawed and that he would thus need to begin his investigation from scratch.***

Independent clause : Professor Talbot finally had to resign himself to the fact(s) that
: **Fact 1** : His original hypothesis must have been flawed

Fact 2 : (Based on fact 1) He would thus need to begin his investigation from scratch

Finally had to (when) : Having failed to secure a definitive results from the hundreds of experiments he had conducted

Paraphrase 1 :

Independent clause : Professor Talbot ultimately had no choice but to admit (some fact(s))

Admission 1 : His initial assumption was surely mistaken

Admission 2 : he therefore had to redo his research from the beginning

Finally had to (when) : After hundreds of tests were unable to bring him to a sure conclusion

➔ After hundreds of tests were unable to bring him to a sure conclusion, **Professor**

Talbot ultimately had no choice but to admit that his initial assumption was surely mistaken and he therefore had to redo his research from the beginning.

Paraphrase 2 (Stronger):

Professor Talbot, whose hundreds of experiments did not lead to any sure conclusion, **had to concede at last that** his starting hypothesis was faulty and would require rethinking.

Recommendations for paraphrasing

1. Understand the sentence
2. Identify the independent clause and isolate the sentence's main message. Start by paraphrasing the key idea(s)
3. Change not only the words into their synonyms, but change also the part of speech of the words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs).
4. Change the grammatical structures, but make sure the order of the events remains the same (the chronology/sequence of events)
5. Make sure the relationships among clauses and sentences is maintained
6. Do not change the meaning of the sentence
7. Remain neutral (no personal bias)
8. Do a complete paraphrase
9. Use a mixture of techniques
10. Reorder, restructure the sentence as a whole

