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Useful Note (2)

# Unit Five Nature



Academic  
focus

- Summary



How-to  
question

- How to summarize



**Reading**  
**Listening & Speaking**

**Writing**  
**Vocabulary & Structure**

**A review**  
**A word test**  
**A check on SPOC**

**Assignments**



# A Check on SPOC

1

When listening to an academic lecture, how should you determine whether the information is important or not?

- By listening to how the professor **words the information**  
e.g. “It’s important...”
- By watching how the professor **uses visuals**  
e.g. Writing on the board
- By listening to how the professor **changes his/her volume or tone**  
e.g. Stress

## A Check on SPOC

2

In terms of strength, reporting verbs can be classified into three groups. What are they?

- Neutral reporting verbs (e.g. state)
- Tentative verbs (e.g. suggest)
- Strong verbs (e.g. argue)

# Vocabulary Quiz



1. My personal problems are not really important in the overall scheme (规划) of things.
2. He was anxious to preserve (维护) his reputation.
3. The patient's condition stabilized (稳定下来).
4. The panda's natural habitat (栖息地) is the bamboo forest.
5. He is interested in wildlife conservation (保护).
6. The new road building program has been ditched (废弃).
7. I had to dismantle (拆开) the engine in order to repair it.
8. The economy remains extremely fragile (脆弱的).
9. There were several simultaneous (同时的) attacks by the rebels.
10. She received £40 000 in compensation (赔偿) for a lost eye.
11. My grandmother used to talk about the time of scarcity (短缺).
12. Food supplies were severely depleted (消耗, 减少).
13. He was a paradox (矛盾的人) — a loner who loved to chat to strangers.
14. Smoking has caused irreversible (无法挽回的) damage to his lungs.
15. We need to optimize (最优化) our use of the existing technology.

# A review



Summarizing

Cite the source

Paraphrasing

Identify the writer of the original text

completeness

Include the writer's key ideas.

Eliminate all unnecessary details

conciseness

Exclude any misinterpretation

accuracy

Presents the information neutrally

objectivity

- ① Use synonyms
- ② Change the sentence structure
- ③ Change voice
- ④ Change parts of speech
- ⑤ Change clauses to phrases

# A review



## A good summary



Identify the writer of the original text

completeness

Include the writer's key ideas.

Eliminate all unnecessary details

conciseness

Exclude any misinterpretation

accuracy

Presents the information neutrally

objectivity





# Paraphrasing

Describing information that you have read or heard **using your own words** is paraphrasing. In this way, you keep the meaning of the original text, but do not copy its exact wording. The strategies to paraphrase include:

- ✓ **Use synonyms** for all words that are not generic.
- ✓ **Change the structure** of the sentence.
- ✓ **Change the voice** from active to passive and vice versa.
- ✓ **Change clauses to phrases** and vice versa.
- ✓ **Change parts of speech.**



# Paraphrasing

- Find out the strategies used for paraphrasing.

## Original

We do not yet understand all the ways in which brain chemicals are related to emotions and thoughts, but the salient point is that our state of mind has an immediate and direct effect on our state of body.

Source: Siegel, B. (1986). Love, Medicine and Miracles (p. 69). New York: Harper and Row.)

## Paraphrase 1

Siegel (1986) writes that although the relationship between brain chemistry and thoughts and feelings is not fully understood, we do know that our psychological state affects our physical state.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

## Paraphrase 2

Siegel (1986) writes that the relationship between the chemicals in the brain and our thoughts and feelings remains only partially understood. He goes on to say, however, that one thing is clear: our mental state affects our bodily state.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

- ① Used synonyms
- ② Changed the sentence structure
- ③ Changed voice
- ④ Changed parts of speech
- ⑤ Cited source

# Paraphrasing



- Work with your group members and paraphrase the following sentences.

## Original sentences



- ① Niagara Falls is viewed by thousands of tourists every year.
- ② The majority of consumers prefer imported cars.
- ③ The gray clouds are a warning of an approaching storm.

## Paraphrased sentences



- ① Annually thousands of people visit Niagara Falls.
- ② Foreign cars are liked by most consumers.
- ③ The coming storm can be foretold by the dark clouds.

# Paraphrasing



- Work with your group members and paraphrase the following sentences.

## Original sentences



- ④ This product causes the break-down of excess body fat and will help people shed pounds.
- ⑤ Uploading a video to YouTube can help exposure for your business.

## Paraphrased sentences



- ④ This product will help people lose weight by removing extra fat in the body.
- ⑤ Your business can be seen by more people if you upload a video to YouTube.

# Paraphrasing



- Work with your group members and paraphrase the following sentences.

## Original sentences



- ⑥ Angier (2001) **reports** that malaria kills more than one million people annually, the overwhelming majority of them children in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Paraphrased sentences



- ⑥ More than one million people are killed by malaria every year with sub-Saharan African children as major victims (Angier, 2001)



# Reporting verbs



In English grammar, a reporting verb is a **verb** (such as say, tell, believe, reply, respond, ask) used to indicate that information **is being quoted or paraphrased**. A reporting verb is also called a **communication verb**.

show, reveal, study, demonstrate, note, point out  
 hypothesize, imply, propose  
 argue, claim, emphasize, contend, maintain, assert, theorize

Types of reporting verbs	Example	More examples
Neutral	describe	
Tentative	speculate	
Strong	argue	



## VOCABULARY & STRUCTURE: reporting verbs

Reporting verbs are used to cite previous studies. It is important to provide citations in your paper as well.

- ✓ Watch the video on citation.
- ✓ Share your notes on the main ideas and write a summary of this video.



### The original source:

Only about one-tenth of the world's population lives there, but sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest hit region, accounting for 72 percent of the people infected with HIV during 2000 (Bunting, 2004).

### An unacceptable paraphrase:

Only about one-tenth of the world's population reside there, but sub-Saharan Africa has highest number of HIV infected people, making up 72 percent of the people infected with HIV in 2000 (Bunting, 2004).

### Why unacceptable?

It only uses synonyms. The sentence structure and grammar remain almost identical.





### The original source:

Only about one-tenth of the world's population lives there, but sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest hit region, accounting for 72 percent of the people infected with HIV during 2000 (Bunting, 2004).

### An acceptable paraphrase:

With approximately one-tenth of the world's population, sub-Saharan Africa has highest percentage of HIV infected people. In 2000, about three-fourths percent of the population are infected with HIV (Bunting, 2004).

### Why acceptable?

It uses synonyms, changes the sentence structure and grammar in the original text.



### The original source:

Only about one-tenth of the world's population lives there, but sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest hit region, accounting for 72 percent of the people infected with HIV during 2000 (Bunting, 2004).

### Acceptable paraphrase 1:

With approximately one-tenth of the world's population, sub-Saharan Africa has highest percentage of HIV infected people. In 2000, about three-fourths percent of the population are infected with HIV (Bunting, 2004).

Any differences?

### Acceptable paraphrase 2:

Bunting (2004) **states** that with approximately one-tenth of the world's population, sub-Saharan Africa has highest percentage of HIV infected people. In 2000, about three-fourths percent of the population are infected with HIV.



### Original text



It is predicted that by 2030 there will be 10% more diarrheal (腹泻的) disease than there would have been with no climate change and that it will primarily affect the health of young children (Shuman 2010).

### Paraphrase



According to Shuman (2010), by 2030 climate change will result in over 10% increase in diarrheal disease with young children as the key victims.

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