

English Language Enhancement Workshops: Fundamentals in Academic Writing

Seminar 2: Paraphrasing to Avoid Plagiarism

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Plagiarism

Plagiarism is treated very seriously, as both a moral as well as an academic issue. At Lingnan University, if plagiarism is found (whether intentional or unintentional), the student concerned may receive a zero mark for that assignment and further penalisation, such as failing the course, or receiving one demerit point.

Lingnan University's definition of plagiarism

The presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work.

Types of Plagiarism

Paraphrasing Plagiarism

Writing something in your own words doesn't make it your idea; you still need to cite the original source and add it to your reference list

Verbatim Plagiarism

Not adding quotation marks and/or accurate in-text citations

Patchwork Plagiarism

Collecting text from a variety of sources and sticking them together without proper acknowledgment or citation of the sources you used

Global Plagiarism

Changing the author of an entire essay/buying an essay and putting your name on it

Self Plagiarism

Resubmitting your own work to another course

Reasons for Using Others' Words

~~I can't write 1,000 words of my own ideas – I need sources to pad out my essay.~~

My own argument is stronger if I can refer to a professional academic who has written the same thing.

To write a balanced essay, I need to show a range of ideas from different sources, including opposing arguments sometimes, not just my personal point of view.

~~My teacher said we have to include references to at least three different sources.~~

It shows my readers (including my teacher) that I've read the sources and understood the subject.

Reading information from different sources helps me to refine and formulate my own ideas.

Learning the writing skills to integrate others' ideas into my own writing helps me improve my academic writing.

These two are not valid reasons for using somebody else's work!

The Elephant in the Room: ChatGPT

Using *ChatGPT* is allowed at this university but the teachers of each course are free to decide how it is used. Therefore, **each course is different.**

On my course, *ChatGPT* cannot be used in most cases and its use could be considered an act of **global plagiarism** (the most serious type of plagiarism) if it writes everything for you.

If you use *ChatGPT* to help you, you must cite its sources, just like you would for any paper or article that you use.

If you use *ChatGPT* without citing or declaring it, it could be a case of academic misconduct which can lead to **demerit points** on your graduation certificate.



Avoiding Plagiarism

In general, *quoting* and/or *paraphrasing* are the best ways to avoid plagiarism and show you have read a source.

All quotes/paraphrases *must* have accurate citations with them.

A general rule of academic writing is that paraphrasing is used more than quoting.

What is Paraphrasing?

Paraphrasing is a language technique where the writer will say the same thing as someone else but use different words.

When paraphrasing, we should remember...

- To hide the original text for a few moments to force ourselves to recall the ideas in the text but not the exact language
- To reuse keywords and technical terms from the original but **NOT** copy too much of the other language. We can use *synonyms* for common nouns, verbs and adjectives.
- To restructure the sentence as much as possible.

Paraphrasing: Finding Technical Terms

Highlight four (or more) technical terms that we should not change in the text below.

Scientists are studying the adaptations of living organisms in order to use their designs in products and technologies for humans. This field of study is known as **biomimetics**. **Velcro** is one example of biomimetics. In 1948, a Swiss engineer named George de Mestral removed a **bur** stuck to his dog's fur. De Mestral studied it under a **microscope** and noticed how well the hooks on the bur stuck to things. He copied the design to make a two-piece fastening device. One piece has stiff hooks like the ones on the bur. The other piece has soft loops that allow the hooks to attach to it.

Paraphrasing: Using Synonyms

Now, highlight four (or more) words that are not as important such as general verbs or adjectives. These words can be replaced by another word with a similar meaning.

Scientists are **studying** the adaptations of living organisms in order to use their designs in products and technologies for humans. This field of study is known as biomimetics. Velcro is one example of biomimetics. In 1948, a Swiss engineer named George de Mestral **removed** a bur stuck to his dog's fur. De Mestral studied it under a microscope and **noticed** how well the hooks on the bur stuck to things. He **copied** the design to make a two-piece fastening device. One piece has stiff hooks like the ones on the bur. The other piece has soft loops that allow the hooks to attach to it.

Paraphrasing: Using Synonyms

synonym = a different word with a similar meaning

investigating

Scientists are **studying** the adaptations of living organisms in order to use their designs **lifted off** ts and technologies for humans. This field of study is known as biomimetics. Velcro is one example of biomimetics. In 1948, a Swiss engineer named George de Mestral **removed** a **observed** his dog's fur. De Mestral studied it under a microscope and **noticed** how well the hooks on the bur stuck to things. He **copied** the design to make a two-piece fastening device. One piece has stiff hooks like the ones on the bur. The other piece has soft loops that allow the hooks to attach to it. **replicated**

Paraphrasing: Restructuring the Text

Now, try to rewrite the first sentence of the paragraph with a different subject.

Scientists are studying the adaptations of living organisms in order to use their designs in products and technologies for humans. This field of study is known as biomimetics.

The adaptations of living organisms have been studied by scientists in order to design products and technologies for humans.

noticed how well the hooks on the bur stuck to things. He copied the design to make a two-piece fastening device. One piece has stiff hooks like the ones on the bur. The other piece has soft loops that allow the hooks to attach to it.

Putting a Paraphrase Together

By keeping technical terms, swapping unimportant words with synonyms, and restructuring the sentence, we could have a paraphrase which looks like this:

“Changes that take place in animals have been studied by scientists to help design products and technologies for people.”

Examples of Paraphrasing

An adaptation is a change in a plant or an animal that helps it survive in its environment.

An adaptation is a change in an animal or plant that makes it survive in the environment.

A change in a species that helps it stay alive in its environment is called an adaptation.

Changes in plants and animals to help keep them alive in their habitats are known as adaptations.

Examples of Paraphrasing

As more organisms inherit a mutation, it eventually becomes a common feature of the species.

Mutations in animals and plants can often become common features if they are inherited by the species.

With the inheritance of this mutation by more of the organisms, it eventually becomes a common feature of the species.

As more plants adopt an abnormality, it is finally a natural feature of the animal species.

Examples of Paraphrasing

A desert plant that can store its own water is an example of a physical adaptation, while whale migration is an example of a behavioural one.

While whale migration is a typical example of behavioural adaptation, water-storing desert plants can be used as an example of a physical adaptation.

A desert plant that can save its own water is an explanation of a physical adaptation, on the other hand, the migration of whales is an behavioural example.

Water-storing desert plants and the migration of whales are often used as examples of different kinds of animal adaptations.

Paraphrasing

Write your paraphrase of this sentence on the Padlet:

Occasionally, an adaptation occurs for a particular reason but then this adaptation evolves to have a different function.



Paraphrasing

Occasionally, an adaptation occurs for a particular reason but then this adaptation evolves to have a different function.

Sometimes, an adaptation will evolve to have an alternative function to what it was originally intended for.

Paraphrasing



Write some paraphrases for the following sentences

1. A local newspaper claims that 75% of all homeless people do not like homeless shelters and prefer to live as they do now.
2. Anyone who has ever driven through the Mojave Desert knows that one should always carry a supply of extra water.
3. Of the 138 million acres of land that Native Americans owned in 1887, 90 million acres were taken away by whites by 1932.
4. A woman who was nominated by the president to head the department was quickly approved by the board of trustees.

Paraphrasing

Write some paraphrases for the following sentences

1. A local newspaper claims that 75% of all homeless people do not like homeless shelters and prefer to live as they do now.
An article in a local newspaper reports that three out of four homeless people think that the streets are better than homeless shelters.

2. Anyone who has ever driven through the Mojave Desert knows that one should always carry a supply of extra water.
Everyone should make sure they have plenty of water with them when they plan to cross through the Mojave Desert.

3. Of the 138 million acres of land that Native Americans owned in 1887, 90 million acres were taken away by whites by 1932.
By 1932, Native Americans had less than half of the land they had owned only 45 years earlier.

4. A woman who was nominated by the president to head the department was quickly approved by the board of trustees.
The board of trustees quickly consented to allowing the woman nominated by the president to lead the department.

Paraphrasing

The United States, Germany, Japan and other industrial powers are being transformed from industrial economies to knowledge and information based service economies, whilst manufacturing has been moving to low wage countries. In a knowledge and information based economy, knowledge and information are the key ingredients in creating wealth.

- 1. Which words should be kept? Highlight them in the text.**
- 2. Which words could be changed? Underline them in the text.**

Paraphrasing

The **United States, Germany, Japan** and other industrial powers are being transformed from industrial economies to **knowledge and information based service economies**, whilst **manufacturing** has been moving to low wage countries. In a **knowledge and information based economy**, knowledge and information are the key ingredients in creating wealth.

Paraphrasing

The United States, Germany, Japan and other industrial powers are being transformed from industrial economies to knowledge and information based service economies, whilst manufacturing has been moving to low wage countries. In a knowledge and information based economy, knowledge and information are the key ingredients in creating wealth.

The United States, Germany, Japan and other economies have dramatically changed from industrial economies to knowledge and information based service economies as manufacturing shifts to countries where the wages are low cost. In a knowledge and information based economy, knowledge and information are the focus in economic growth.

There is a dramatic change happening in economies such as the United States, Japan and Germany from industrial to service economies involved in knowledge and information. As manufacturing shifts to countries where wages are low, knowledge and information production should be the main focus for economic growth in these economies.

- 1. Is Paraphrase 1 (orange) acceptable/unacceptable? Why/why not?**
- 2. Is Paraphrase 2 (blue) acceptable/unacceptable? Why/why not?**

Paraphrasing

The United States, Germany, Japan and other industrial powers are being transformed from industrial economies to knowledge and information based service economies, whilst manufacturing has been moving to low wage countries. In a knowledge and information based economy, knowledge and information are the key ingredients in creating wealth.

There is a dramatic change happening in economies such as the United States, Japan and Germany from industrial to service economies involved in knowledge and information. As manufacturing shifts to countries where wages are low, knowledge and information production should be the main focus for economic growth in these economies.

Which words have been replaced?

Paraphrasing

other industrial powers = *economies such as*

transformed = *dramatic change*

whilst = *as*

has been moving = *shifts to*

low wage countries = *countries where wages are low*

key ingredients = *main focus*

Paraphrasing

Information systems make it possible for business to adopt flatter, more decentralised structures and more flexible arrangements for employees and management. Organisations are trying to become more competitive and efficient by transforming themselves into digital firms where nearly all core business process and relationships with customers, suppliers and employees are digitally managed.

Businesses can develop ...



Paraphrasing

Information systems make it possible for business to adopt flatter, more decentralised structures and more flexible arrangements for employees and management. Organisations are trying to become more competitive and efficient by transforming themselves into digital firms where nearly all core business process and relationships with customers, suppliers and employees are digitally managed.

Business can develop flatter, less centralised structures, as well as arrangements which allow for greater flexibility, through the application of information systems. The pressures of competition and efficiency require organisations to become digital companies where core dealings with customers, suppliers and employees are facilitated electronically.

Using Synonyms

34 Choose the most accurate synonyms of 'boring' to complete the sentences:

The lecturer's voice became more and more _____ as the lecture continued. As the student looked at the clock, he realised there was still an hour left in this _____ classroom with _____ walls and no decoration.

dull

monotonous

humdrum

dreary

Using Synonyms

34 Choose the most accurate synonyms of 'boring' to complete the sentences:

The lecturer's voice became more and more monotonous as the lecture continued. As the student looked at the clock, he realised there was still an hour left in this dreary classroom with dull walls and no decoration.

dull

monotonous

humdrum

dreary

Using Synonyms

monotonous

[COLLOCATES](#) (more)

[NOUN](#) [voice](#), [work](#), [routine](#), [landscape](#), [sound](#), [task](#), [drone](#), [regularity](#)

dull

[COLLOCATES](#) (more)

[NOUN](#) [eye](#), [moment](#), [ache](#), [knife](#), [color](#), [pain](#), [light](#), [thud](#)

dreary

[COLLOCATES](#) (more)

[NOUN](#) [day](#), [room](#), [winter](#), [weather](#), [midnight](#), [dark](#), [town](#), [afternoon](#)

humdrum

[COLLOCATES](#) (more)

[NOUN](#) [life](#), [job](#), [routine](#), [existence](#), [office](#), [reality](#), [task](#), [character](#)

Using Synonyms

36 Choose the most accurate synonyms of 'shocking' to complete the sentences:

It was utterly _____ to wake up and see a spider on my pillow next to me. However, what was more _____ was seeing that the dog had eaten half of another spider and left the rest on the floor. I found my dog's behaviour to be very _____.

terrifying

surprising

appalling

disgusting

Using Synonyms

36 Choose the most accurate synonyms of 'shocking' to complete the sentences:

It was utterly terrifying to wake up and see a spider on my pillow next to me. However, what was more disgusting was seeing that the dog had eaten half of another spider and left the rest on the floor. I found my dog's behaviour to be very appalling.

terrifying

surprising

appalling

disgusting

Using Synonyms

shocking

[COLLOCATES](#) (more)

[NOUN](#) [news](#), [revelation](#), [video](#), [discovery](#), [murder](#), [twist](#), [detail](#), [secret](#)

appalling

[COLLOCATES](#) (more)

[NOUN](#) [condition](#), [lack](#), [behavior](#), [record](#), [situation](#), [abuse](#), [tragedy](#), [violence](#)

terrifying

[COLLOCATES](#) (more)

[NOUN](#) [experience](#), [moment](#), [thought](#), [prospect](#), [scene](#), [creature](#), [ordeal](#), [sound](#)

surprising

[COLLOCATES](#) (more)

[NOUN](#) [result](#), [finding](#), [amount](#), [discovery](#), [turn](#), [twist](#), [conclusion](#), [revelation](#)