

ASYNCHRONOUS LESSON: PARAPHRASING

CI_Week 2_Lesson 4_Paraphrasing

Source: Oxford Grammar for EAP, Units 16.4-16.5, pp. 146-147

OBJECTIVES OF THE LESSON

two paraphrasing techniques:

- change in word forms,
- change in structure

WHAT IS A PARAPHRASE?

- A paraphrase is an alternative to a direct quote. In rewriting an author's idea in your own words, you avoid plagiarism and show that you understand the original text. Paraphrases are normally a similar length to the original text, and always acknowledge the source.
- Although the style of writing should be your own, most paraphrases feature a combination of some the following techniques:
 - A change in word form,
 - A change in the structure of sentences.
- Let's review each of the techniques.

1. CHANGES IN WORD FORMS

- Changing the form of a word in a source text is useful in a paraphrase because it will necessitate a change in the grammar of your sentence, which in turn will help you in the process of creating a new sentence.

1.1 Verb ↔ noun

- Companies need to **distribute** their products in the most cost-effective way —▶
The cost-effective **distribution** of their products is vital to companies.

I.2 ADJECTIVE ↔ ADVERB

- Varying the height of the roofs in the complex was a **creative** response to the problem —▶

The architects responded **creatively** to the problem by varying the height of the roofs.

I.3 VERB ↔ ADJECTIVE

- Consultants advised the company to **extend** the range of their products —▶
Consultants advised the company to make the range of their products more **extensive**.

I.4 ADJECTIVE ↔ NOUN

- A football stadium should be easily **accessible** by coach and foot, if not also by train and bus —▶
People should be able to gain easy **access** to a football stadium by coach and foot, if not also by train and bus.
- **Familiarity** with the policies of a prospective employer can be useful at an interview—▶
It can be useful at an interview to be **familiar** with the policies of a prospective employer.

2. CHANGES IN STRUCTURE

- Changing the grammatical structure of a sentence can help you to make a paraphrase. In this section six areas where change is quite often possible are listed. For more information on these grammatical areas, page references are given. Note that these are not the only structural changes to be used; you will have to use your grammatical knowledge to make other transformations when you see the source text.

2.1 CAUSE AND EFFECT

cause ↔ effect

- The spread of GM trials had led to **a series of protests** →
A series of protests has resulted from the spread of GM trials

because ↔ as a result ↔ so ... that

- Medical services are coming under pressure **as a result of** people living longer →
Medical services are coming under pressure **because** people are living longer →
People are living so much longer **that** medical services are coming under pressure.

2.2 COMPARISON

than ↔ as ... as

- Sometimes paying a fine will be **cheaper than** going to court —▶
Sometimes paying a fine will not be **as expensive as** going to court.

2.3 EXPRESSING CONTRAST

although ↔ despite ↔ however

- **Although** Dian Fossey spent years studying gorillas, their behaviour would still surprise her —▶

Despite years spent studying gorillas, their behaviour would still surprise Dian Fossey—▶

Dian Fossey spent years studying gorillas; **however**, their behaviour would still surprise her.

2.4 PASSIVES

active ↔ passive

- Carol Hardman **designed** the pioneering software —▶
The pioneering software **was designed by** Carol Hardman.

2.5 PARTICIPLES

before, after, since + noun + verb —▶ before, after, since+ -ing form

- After Tom Azezi **left** the team, his inventions were all on a much smaller scale—▶
After leaving the team, Tom Azezi's inventions were all on a much smaller scale.

2.6 MODAL VERBS

can, could ↔ be able to

- In later years, Foubert pic **could not** match its earlier success —▶

In later years, Foubert pic **was unable** to match its earlier success

may, might, could ↔ be possible

- A medical breakthrough in the field of cancer research **could** happen in the next ten years —▶

It **is possible that** a medical breakthrough in the field of cancer research will happen in the next ten years.

Should ↔ be likely to

- We **should** see a reduction in the price of hybrid cars within five years —▶

We **are likely to** see a reduction in the price of hybrid cars within five years.