

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing stands for re-writing a sentence or phrase using different words while keeping the same meaning. You can paraphrase by **using different vocabulary**, **changing word order** or **changing the grammar**.

- **Method 1. Using Different Words with the Same Meaning:**

Using this technique proves to be difficult because not all synonyms have the same meaning. You need to choose the most appropriate synonym in order to ensure your sentence sounds natural.

EXAMPLE:

1. “You **will use** a different method”.
- ↓
2. “You **will operate** a dissimilar manner”.
- ↓
3. “You **will employ** another approach”.

Often synonyms are not interchangeable. Given a certain context, one expression or word might not suit the sentence properly. As shown in the example above, sentence 2 sounds unnatural because the chosen synonyms do not convey the same meaning. Thus, the paraphrasing in sentence 3 is better and sounds more natural since all the words convey the same meaning.

TIP: The 100% rule might be useful to decide if it is better to use this method or consider the two other methods. If you are 100% sure that the synonym has the same meaning as the word you intend to change, you might consider Method 1 to paraphrase your sentence. However, if you are less than 100% sure, consider using the below methods.

- **Method 2. Changing Word Order:**

Another way to paraphrase is to change the order of the words. By avoiding using synonyms, you can eliminate any ambiguity. It is important to note that you need to choose the right word(s) and move them to the right place. Sometimes, you might need to make modifications, such as changing, subtracting or adding some words to the sentence to guarantee the sentence is grammatically correct.

- a) If the sentence has more than one clause, alter the clauses' order:

EXAMPLE:

“If you miss an exam, you will need to sit for a makeup”.



“You will need to sit for a makeup exam, if the original exam is missed”.

- b) If the sentence has only a noun and an adjective (only one clause), the adjective can be worded into a relative clause:

EXAMPLE:

“Becoming a published author is an ambitious endeavour”,



“Becoming a published author is an endeavour that requires great ambition”.

• **Method 3. Changing the Grammar:**

Sometimes, changing grammar can be easier than using synonyms. Using different grammar offers more advantages than changing vocabulary, as grammatical errors are less likely to affect the general meaning of the sentence.

- a) Changing some words into different **parts of speech**:

EXAMPLE:

“The best way to find synonyms is to use the thesaurus cautiously”.



“The best way of finding synonyms is by using the thesaurus in a cautious manner”.

- b) Changing the active voice sentence to the passive voice **or vice versa**:

EXAMPLE:

“To change the active to the passive, you should change the sentence structure”.



“To change the active to the passive, changes should be made to the structure of the original sentence”.