Exercise – summarising a text

Introduction

This exercise requires you to practise summarising a text in an academic style of writing.

There are four stages involved in this process:

- identify the key points of the text
- summarise the key points in one or two sentences
- use your own words where possible
- include a reference to the original source

Further information

The Learning Resources Study Hub provides a range of opportunities (such as workshops and drop-ins) for you to enhance your academic skills. For more information visit: **lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub**

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Exercise

Read the following text:

Self-Access Language Learning Centres have become more widespread at UK universities in recent years. Many UK universities now have dedicated centres fully equipped with modern technology and innovative language learning software.

Although self-access learning aims to promote independent learning, students are not encouraged to learn languages completely on their own without any guidance or support. In some cases, students follow traditional face-to-face language classes and supplement these with extra learning in their own time. The emphasis in this case is then on providing students with additional opportunities to enhance their language learning rather than replacing conventional classes. Where students are not following classes, online interactive self-access learning platforms allow student-teacher contact to enable feedback and guidance to be given. Furthermore, self-access learning should encourage students to interact with their peers in the target language, for example through online forums, in order to increase communicative language use and enhance the language learning process.

Therefore, although self-access learning aims to allow students to develop a certain level of self-sufficiency in their language learning, guidance and support from tutors and peers, either face-to-face or through online contact, remains an important factor.

Koulle, K. (2014) *Self-Access Language Learning*. Luton: University of Bedfordshire Press

Follow the steps below to construct your summary:

Step 1: Identify the key terms/ideas

Step 2: Use the key terms to form sentences that summarise the main ideas of the text, using your own words where possible

Step 3: Construct one or two sentences incorporating the key terms/ideas you have found in order to summarise the main ideas of the text.

Step 4: Add a reference to complete your summary

Suggested answers:

Step 1: Identify the key terms/ideas

- Self-Access Language Learning
- Independent learning
- Face-to-face language classes
- Online feedback
- Guidance and support from tutors and peers

Step 2: Use the key terms to form sentences that summarise the main ideas of the text, using your own words where possible

Self-Access Language Learning encourages learner independence.

Self-Access Language Learning can be undertaken in combination with classroom learning.

Self-Access Language Learning can include online contact and support from tutors and other learners.

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Step 3: Construct one or two sentences incorporating the key terms/ideas you have found in order to summarise the main ideas of the text.

Self-Access Language Learning is a means of encouraging learner independence and can be undertaken in combination with classroom learning or through online contact and support from tutors and other learners.

Step 4: add a reference to complete your summary

Koulle (2014) refers to Self-Access Language Learning as a means of encouraging learner independence and can be undertaken in combination with classroom learning or through online contact and support from tutors and other learners.