



## Exercise – what counts as paraphrasing?

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### Introduction

Paraphrasing is a key skill to enhance the quality of your work, and to avoid plagiarism. This exercise requires you to identify what counts as paraphrasing.

On pages 2-6 there are quotations taken from academic sources. In each case, four attempts at paraphrasing have been made. However, only one attempt is acceptable. You are required to identify which of the following four labels best describes each paraphrasing attempt:

- **Not in own words** – The wording of the paraphrase is too similar to the original quotation
- **Referenced incorrectly** (based on Harvard referencing conventions) – either missing a reference or reference is formatted incorrectly
- **Did not retain meaning** – The paraphrase does not accurately reflect the content of the original
- **Acceptable** – There are no problems

Answers are presented on pages 7-10. A worked example is provided on page 2.

**The following is an example of correctly labelled paraphrasing attempts:**

*“Traditional questionnaire methods of assessing behavioural problems are completed by parents or teachers, based on observations of the child’s behaviour”  
(Piotrowski, 2005, p.57)*

<b>Not own words</b>	<b>Referenced incorrectly</b>	<b>Does not retain meaning</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>
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Piotrowski (2005) states that the only way to assess children’s behavioural problems is for parents or teachers to complete an observational questionnaire.

**Not own words**

Parents’ and teachers’ observations of children’s behaviour are recorded using established questionnaires in order to assess behavioural problems.

**Referenced incorrectly**

Parents and teachers are involved in the assessment of behavioural problems in children, as their observations of behaviour are recorded using established questionnaires (Piotrowski, 2005).

**Acceptable**

Piotrowski (2005) explains that conventional questionnaires completed by parents or teachers are used to assess children’s behavioural problems, and these are based on observations of behaviour.

**Does not retain meaning**

## Exercise 1

Four students have attempted to paraphrase the following quotation:

*“There are certain skills required for conducting structured interviews, which should be practiced under the type of conditions that allow for constructive feedback on performance” (Robson, 1999, p.568)*

Which label best describes each paraphrasing attempt?

Not own words	Referenced incorrectly	Does not retain meaning	Acceptable
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By conducting structured interviews with someone who can comment on your performance, it is possible to practice the necessary skills (Robson, 1999).

Structured interviews require a certain set of skills and should be practiced in environments where constructive comments are encouraged (Robson, 1999).

Robson (1999) states that constructive feedback can enhance performance in conducting structured interviews.

By conducting structured interviews with someone who can comment on your performance, it is possible to practice the necessary skills.

## Exercise 2

Four students have attempted to paraphrase the following quotation:

*“The controversy surrounding climate change has intensified recently with important political and economic consequences” (Dickens, 2010, p.20)*

Which label best describes each paraphrasing attempt?

Not own words	Referenced incorrectly	Does not retain meaning	Acceptable
The debates concerning climate change have recently become more intense and have critical consequences of political and economic nature (Dickens, 2010).			
Dickens (2010) has identified that there are financial and political costs involved in the increasingly controversial climate change issue.			
Due to political and economical circumstances, climate change has recently become more controversial (Dickens, 2010).			
There are financial and political consequences involved in the increasingly controversial climate change issue.			

### Exercise 3

Four students have attempted to paraphrase the following quotation:

*“Enrolment into higher education is on the increase worldwide, where over half of all young people in developed countries enter college” (Holt, 2009, p.7)*

Which label best describes each paraphrasing attempt?

<b>Not own words</b>	<b>Referenced incorrectly</b>	<b>Does not retain meaning</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>
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Holt (2009) indicates that there is a worldwide increase in people enrolling into higher education, particularly in developed countries where over half of all young people are entering college.

The majority of young people have entered college across developed countries, indicating a worldwide increase in the undertaking of higher education (Holt, 2009, p.678).

Holt (2009) indicates that half of all young people are enrolled in college, indicating a worldwide increase in people in further education.

A majority of young people are enrolling in colleges across developed countries, reflecting an international increase in the undertaking of higher education (Holt, 2009).

## Exercise 4

Four students have attempted to paraphrase the following quotation:

*“There have been indications of social and environmental drawbacks of the development of the tourism industry, where growing visitor numbers can bring a strain on resources and cause pollution” (Jordan, 2006, p.98)*

Which label best describes each paraphrasing attempt?

Not own words

Referenced  
incorrectly

Does not retain  
meaning

Acceptable

Jordan (2006) indicates that growing visitor numbers has stretched supplies and caused environmental damage, which are social and environmental disadvantages of the tourism industry.

Environmental damage and stretched resources can be attributed to the growing tourism industry (Jordan, 2006).

Jordan (2006, p768) stated that the growth of the tourism industry can have negative consequences on the availability of resources and increase the level of environmental damage.

The growth of the tourism industry has negative consequences on the availability of resources and can increase pollution levels (Jordan, 2006).

## Exercise 1 – answers

By conducting structured interviews with someone who can comment on your performance, it is possible to practice the necessary skills (Robson, 1999).

**Acceptable**

Structured interviews require a certain set of skills and should be practiced in environments where constructive comments are encouraged (Robson, 1999).

**Not own words**

Robson (1999) states that constructive feedback can enhance performance in conducting structured interviews.

**Does not retain meaning**

By conducting structured interviews with someone who can comment on your performance, it is possible to practice the necessary skills.

**Referenced incorrectly – reference missing**

## Exercise 2 – answers

The debates concerning climate change have recently become more intense and have critical consequences of political and economic nature (Dickens, 2010).

**Not own words**

Dickens (2010) has identified that there are financial and political costs involved in the increasingly controversial climate change issue.

**Acceptable**

Due to political and economical circumstances, climate change has recently become more controversial (Dickens, 2010).

**Does not retain meaning**

There are financial and political consequences involved in the increasingly controversial climate change issue.

**Referenced incorrectly – reference missing**

### Exercise 3 – answers

Holt (2009) indicates that there is a worldwide increase in people enrolling into higher education, particularly in developed countries where over half of all young people are entering college.

**Not own words**

The majority of young people have entered college across developed countries, indicating a worldwide increase in the undertaking of higher education (Holt, 2009, p.678).

**Referenced  
incorrectly – no  
page number  
needed**

Holt (2009) indicates that half of all young people are enrolled in college, indicating a worldwide increase in people in further education.

**Does not retain  
meaning**

A majority of young people are enrolling in colleges across developed countries, reflecting an international increase in the undertaking of higher education (Holt, 2009).

**Acceptable**

## Exercise 4 – answers

Jordan (2006) indicates that growing visitor numbers has stretched supplies and caused environmental damage, which are social and environmental disadvantages of the tourism industry.

**Not own words**

Environmental damage and stretched resources can be attributed to the growing tourism industry (Jordan, 2006).

**Does not retain meaning**

Jordan (2006, p768) stated that the growth of the tourism industry can have negative consequences on the availability of resources and increase the level of environmental damage.

**Referenced incorrectly – no page number**

The growth of the tourism industry has negative consequences on the availability of resources and can increase pollution levels (Jordan, 2006).

**Acceptable**

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### 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](http://lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub)**

