

Board race

1. Divide the class into two or three big teams.
2. Teams line up in front of a blank space on the board. Only the 1st person in the line has a marker to write. Once done writing, they must pass the marker to the next person and go to the back of the line.
3. Display a word or sentence on the projector or read it out loud.
4. Teams race to write as many synonyms/paraphrases of it as they can, only one answer per team member.
5. After a certain amount of time, teacher stops the round and checks the answers.
6. Award one point per correct answer.



Sentence paraphrasing

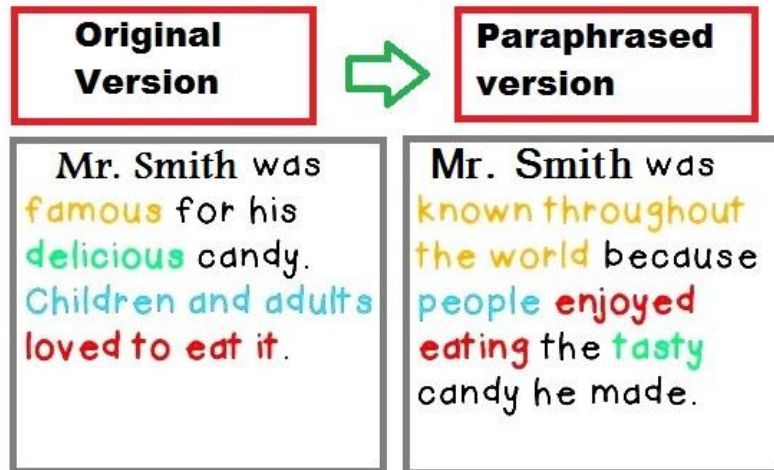
1. Smaller teams of 3-4 students.
2. Teacher dictates or writes a simple sentence that teams copy down onto a paper or mini whiteboard.
3. Teams then race with a time limit to paraphrase the sentence.
4. Points can be awarded for the fastest paraphrase, for accuracy, and/or for the best paraphrase.
5. Sentences can get increasingly longer or more difficult as the rounds go on.



Using class texts for shorter paraphrases

1. After reading/listening, use the text as a source. Identify specific sentences or paragraphs and ask teams to paraphrase them.
2. One team member now writes their paraphrase on the board.
3. Teams swap and check each others' paraphrases for accuracy and meaning against the original, either approving or rejecting the paraphrase.
4. Whole class feedback after each round.
5. Points can be used for competitive element.

Writing Skills: How To Paraphrase



Paraphrasing longer (academic reading) texts

This could also be used as an opportunity to cover summarising.

1. After reading, use the text as a source.
2. Pair students and ask them to find sentences in each paragraph that states the main idea of that paragraph.
3. Check and agree.
4. Now ask pairs to paraphrase each sentence to create a summary of the text.
5. This is challenging as it is now not just about sentences, but also about coherence within the new paragraph they create.
6. This is a great opportunity to encourage the use of grammatical changes in paraphrasing.
7. 2x pairs now form a group and compare their paraphrases.
8. Teacher rotates and could use any good examples in whole class feedback.



Individual paraphrasing practice

1. Students work alone.
2. Teacher can use a class text or provide a new text that is relevant to the current course topic.
3. Ask students to try paraphrasing it alone. Encourage them to try it without any resources at first.
4. If they get stuck, allow the use of a dictionary or thesaurus.
5. Paraphrasing can be done of individual sentences, paragraphs, or in combination with summarising the text.
6. Paraphrases can be check in pairs, groups, or teacher can collect them for checking and feedback in the next lesson.

