

MODEL

Paraphrase

Original Passage

" Language is the main means of communication between peoples. But so many different languages have developed that language has often been a barrier rather than an aid to understanding among peoples. For many years, people have dreamed of setting up an international universal language which all people could speak and understand. The arguments in favor of a universal language are simple and obvious. If all peoples spoke the same tongue, cultural and economic ties might be much closer, and good will might increase between countries "(Kispert, 2004: P3).

How to Write a Good Paraphrase

There are three keys to writing a good paraphrase:

1. Use your own words and your own sentence structure.
2. Make your paraphrase approximately the same length as the original.
3. Do not change the meaning of the original.

Plagiarism

It is important to learn how to use information from outside sources without committing plagiarism. *Plagiarism* is wrongly using someone else's words or ideas, and it is a serious offense. Students who plagiarize may fail a class or even be expelled from school.

There are two kinds of plagiarism.

1. When you use information from an outside source *without citing the source* (telling where you got the information), you are guilty of plagiarism.
2. Even when you cite your source, *if your paraphrase is too similar to the original*, you are guilty of plagiarism.

Read the following paraphrases and decide which kind of plagiarism each example is guilty of.

Paraphrase 1

Humans communicate through language. However, because there are so many languages in the world, language acts as an obstacle instead of as an aid to understanding. People have long wished for a universal international language that speakers all over the world could understand. A universal language would certainly build cultural and economic bonds. It would also create better feelings among countries.

Paraphrase 2

Language is the principal means of communication between peoples. However, because there are numerous languages, language itself has frequently been a barrier rather than an aid to understanding among the world population. For many years, people have envisioned a common universal language that everyone in the world could communicate in. The reasons for having a universal language are clearly understandable. If the same tongue were spoken by all countries, they would undoubtedly become closer culturally and economically. It would probably also create good will among nations (Kispert).

Paraphrase 1 is plagiarism because the source is not cited. Paraphrase 2 is plagiarism because it is too similar to the original passage. For example, in the first sentence, only one word has been changed: *main* replaces *principal*. In the second sentence, only a few words have been changed. You can avoid the first kind of plagiarism by always citing your sources. You can avoid the second kind of plagiarism by learning to paraphrase correctly.