How to use "your own words" when paraphrasing

Kaveh Tagharobi & Madeline Walker Centre for academic Communication

Academic Integrity Week, October 2022



We acknowledge and respect the lakwanan peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

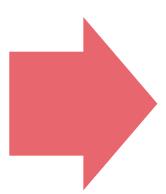
What does it even mean to paraphrase?

Quotes

Paraphrases

Borrowing sentences:

in the author's voice, including their vocabulary and sentence structure

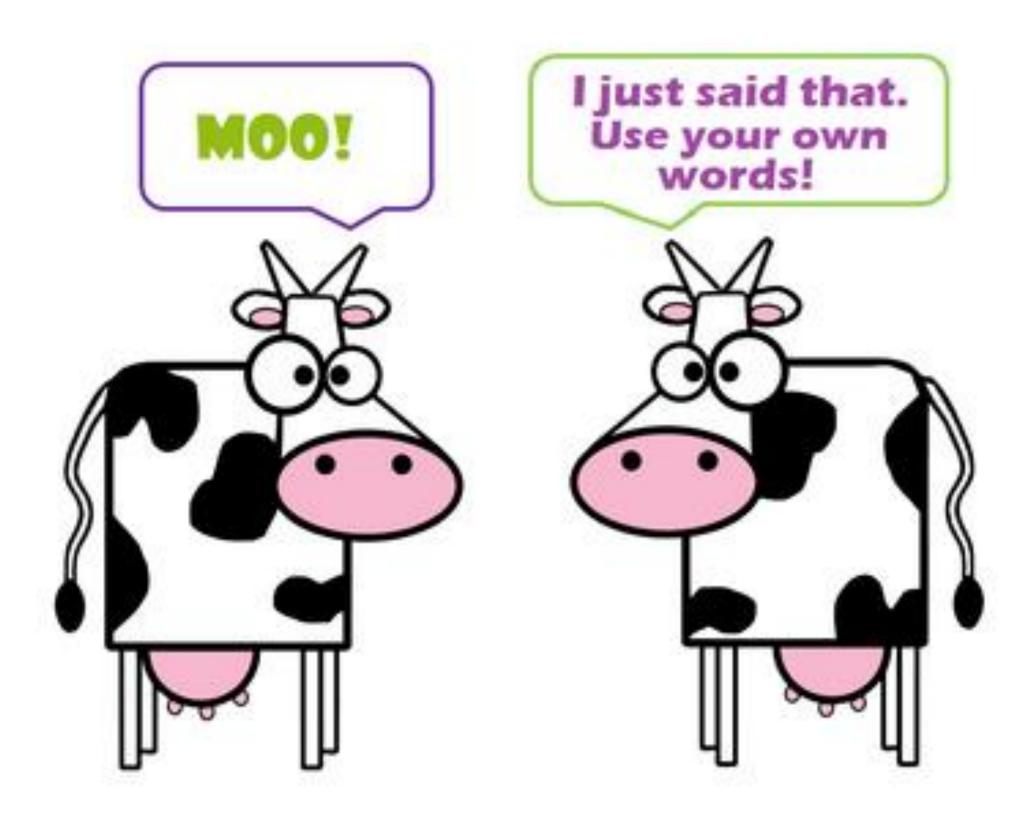


Borrowing ideas:

presented in your voice, including your vocabulary and sentence structure



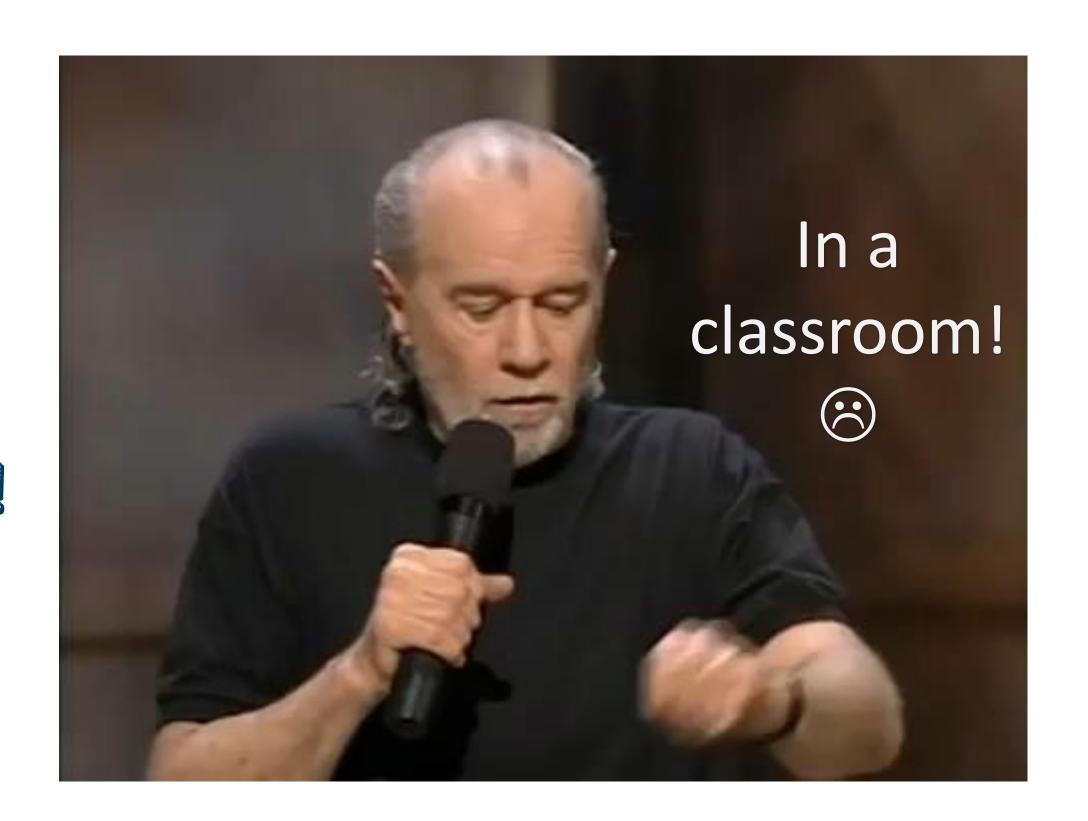
What is paraphrasing anyway?





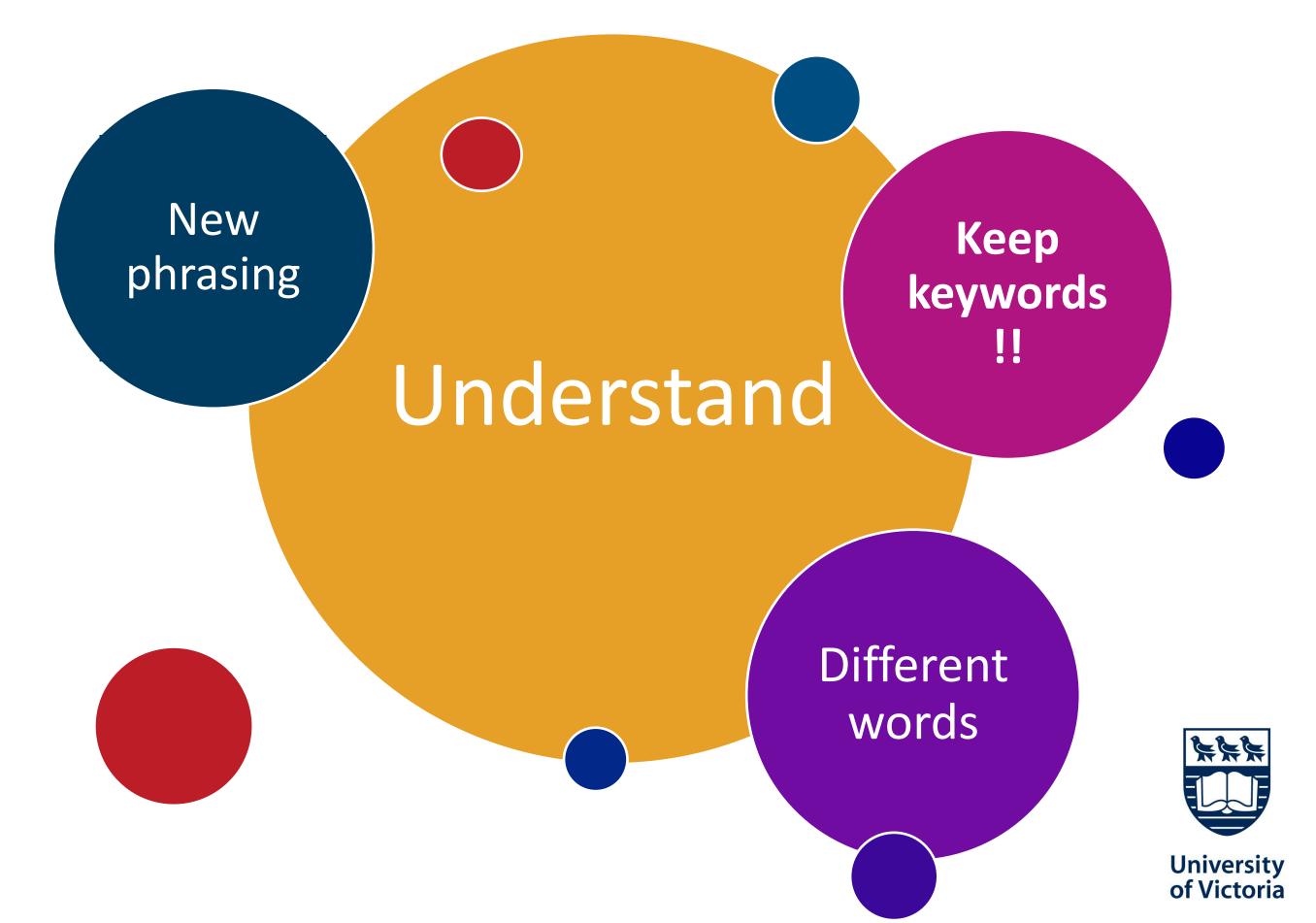
Do you have your own words?

YOUR
OWN
WORDS!!!





Here's the deal!



Original

Because of their unique perspective, Americans fear globalization less than anyone else, and as a consequence they think about it less than anyone else. When Americans do think about globalization, they think of the global economy as an enlarged version of the American economy.

(Source: Thurow, L. (1993).

Fortune Favors the Bold (p. 6).

New York: Harper Collins.)

Plagiarism

According to Lester Thurow (1993)
Americans fear globalization
less than people from other countries
and as a consequence spend less
time thinking about it. Indeed,
Americans see globalization as an
enlarged version of their own
economy.

Why is this plagiarism?

The writer has used Thurow's exact words without enclosing them in quotation marks. S/he has only substituted synonyms here and there. Even though Thurow is credited with a citation, this would be considered **plagiarism**.

Paraphrasing

Lester Thurow (1993) maintains that because Americans see globalization simply as a bigger form of their own economy, they are less concerned about it than is the rest of the world.

Why is this acceptable?

The writer has kept the meaning of the original passage without copying words or structure. Words like *globalization* and *Americans* are generic terms (i.e., terms that are commonly used for the concept they illustrate - it is difficult to find synonyms for them). Thus you may use these words without placing them in quotation marks.

(Complete Thurow reference appears in bibliography)



It helps you avoid (unintentional) plagiarism!





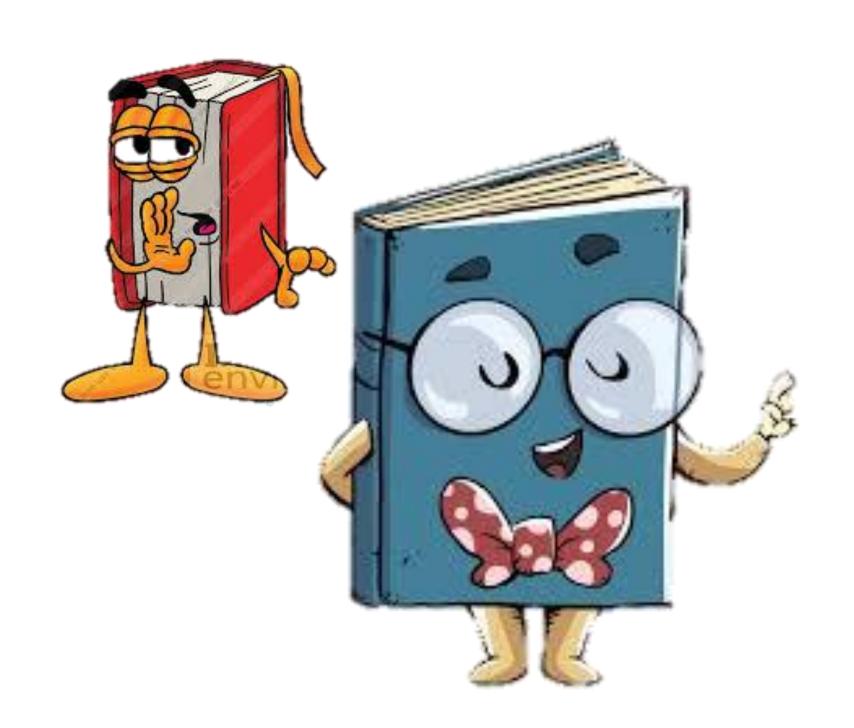
It helps you keep and maintain your voice!



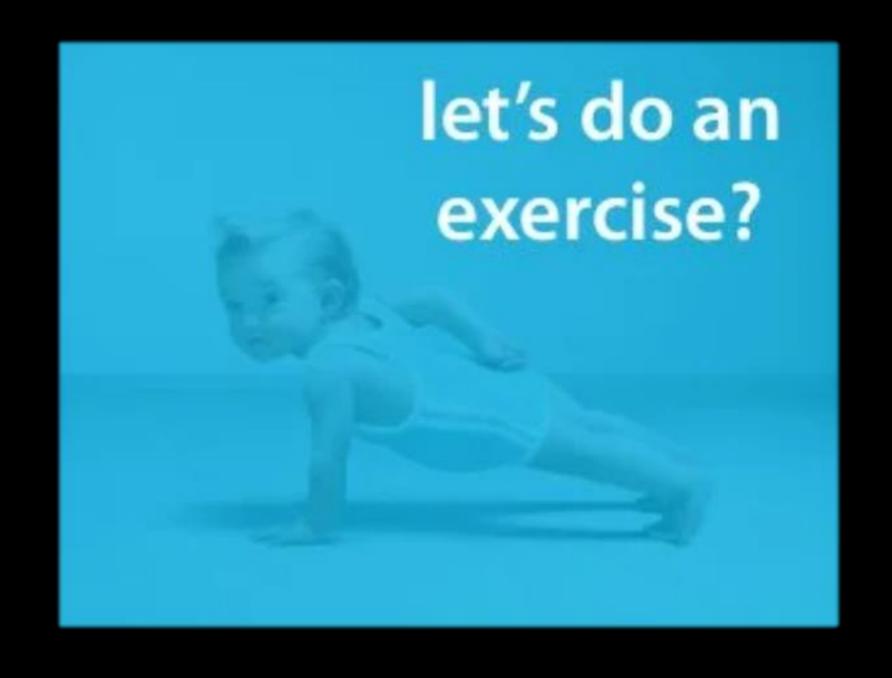
Maybe
try using
your own
words?



It helps you put sources into conversation!







Exercise 1

You are writing a research paper in your health economics class about taxes on junk food to prevent obesity.

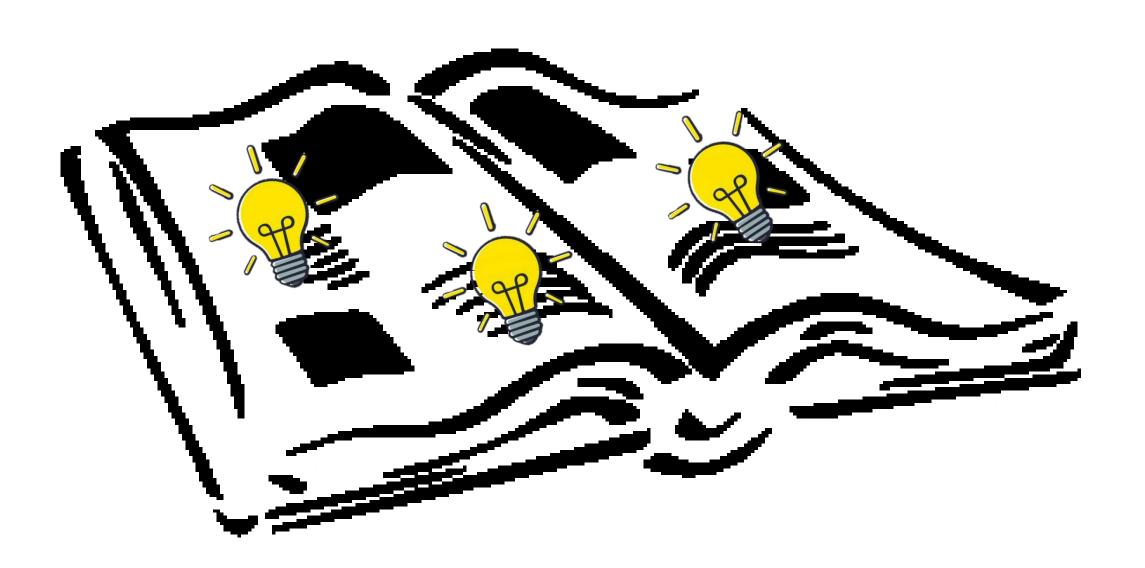
Taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs), such as soda and bottled iced tea, are an increasingly popular approach to reducing obesity, diabetes, and other health harms. ... A basic economic principle is that such corrective taxes should be proportional to the harm caused. The harm from sugary drinks comes from the sugar, and SSBs vary substantially in sugar per unit volume. Yet SSB taxes typically set constant rates per unit volume; only three SSB taxes worldwide are proportional to sugar content. ... We estimate that a simple design change—taxing the amount of sugar in a drink, not the volume of liquid that accompanies the sugar—could boost a SSB tax's health benefits and overall economic gains by roughly 30%.

You want to paraphrase this paragraph for your paper. Let's start by paraphrasing the first sentence. Read – understand – take notes – look away – paraphrase.

Source: Science magazine called "Designing better sugary drink taxes." It is by Grummon et al., published September 2019, Volume 365, Issue 6457, pages 989-90.

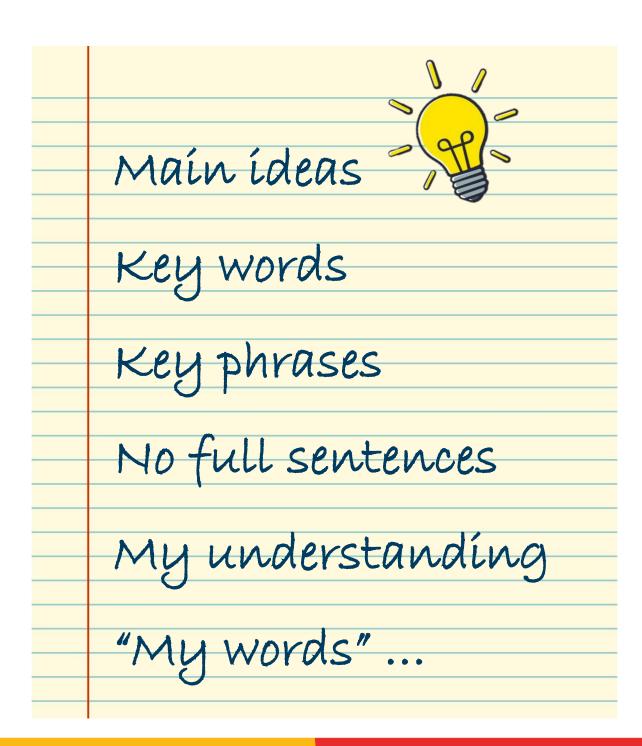


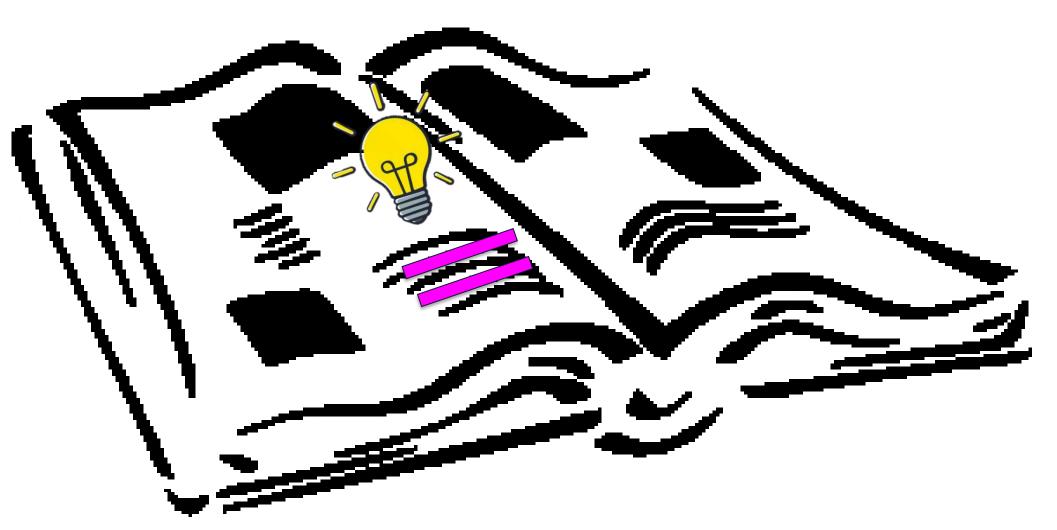
Read to fully understand main ideas



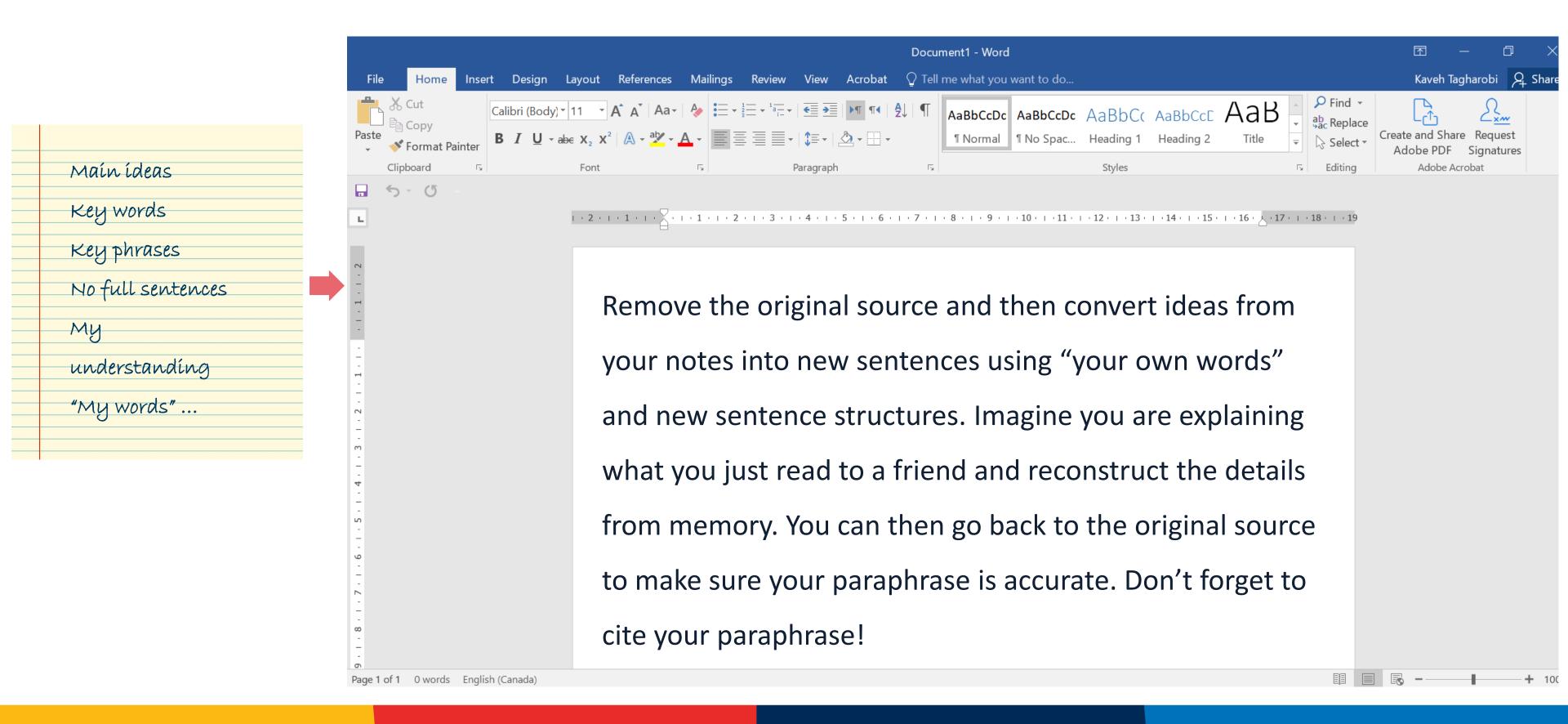


Take notes using only key words and phrases





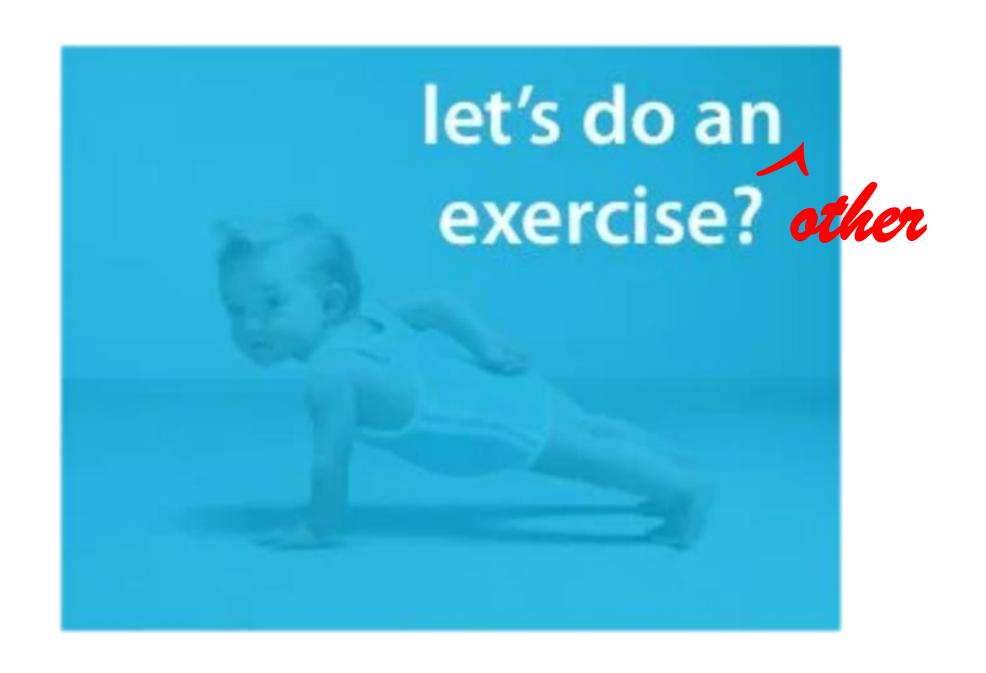
Convert ideas into new sentences



Use third person and descriptive verbs to attribute the ideas to the original source

Categories	Descriptive verbs Signal
Neutral	report, observe, note, indicate, discuss, state, define,
Strong	assert, insist, emphasize, urge,
Argumentative	argue, claim, believe, suggest, maintain, agree, compare,
Disagreeing	disagree, reject, deny, complain, refute, criticize,
Questioning	Question whether, wonder,





Exercise 2

Let's continue with the same text from Exercise 1.

Taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs), such as soda and bottled iced tea, are an increasingly popular approach to reducing obesity, diabetes, and other health harms. ... A basic economic principle is that such corrective taxes should be proportional to the harm caused. The harm from sugary drinks comes from the sugar, and SSBs vary substantially in sugar per unit volume. Yet SSB taxes typically set constant rates per unit volume; only three SSB taxes worldwide are proportional to sugar content. ... We estimate that a simple design change—taxing the amount of sugar in a drink, not the volume of liquid that accompanies the sugar—could boost a SSB tax's health benefits and overall economic gains by roughly 30%.

Read the paragraph again and take a few notes. Paraphrase the rest of the paragraph, capturing the ideas in your own words. Read — understand — take notes — look away — paraphrase. Cite the author and date either in your paraphrase or in parentheses after your paraphrase.

Don't worry if your language seems too simple.

Source: Science magazine called "Designing better sugary drink taxes." It is by Grummon et al., published September 2019, Volume 365, Issue 6457, pages 989-90.

Thank you so much for your participation! ©

Questions?

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