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Welcome!

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*"To put it differently..."*

The Magic of Paraphrasing  
for Exam Preparation

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First things first: Paraphrasing Defined

paraphrase

verb [I or T]

UK  /ˈpær.əˌfrez/

US  /ˈper.əˌfrez/

Add to word list

to repeat something written or spoken using  
different words, often in a humorous form or  
in a simpler and shorter form that makes the  
original meaning clearer



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A recommended resource

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From Sentence to Context

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From Sentence to Context: Wh- Analysis

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Paraphrasing at B2 First: or to put it another way...

02-07-21

Paraphrasing at B2 First: or to put it another way...



Paraphrasing at B2 First: or to put it another way...

by ROY NORRIS in BLOGS & ARTICLES

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In this article, Roy Norris looks at paraphrasing in the Cambridge B2 First exam and shows how teachers can provide practice in this important subskill.

Paraphrasing in all four papers

When students are preparing for the Cambridge B2 First exam, there is a clear case for them to learn to express the same idea in a number of different ways, or in other words, to convey the same message in more than one way

25

It's been over six months since I last saw Dan.

SEEN

I .....over six months.

26

The match went ahead despite the wet weather.

EVEN

The match went ahead ..... raining.

27

"You took the last piece of chocolate!" Hannah said to Paul.

ACCUSED

Hannah ..... the last piece of chocolate.

What

Who

Where

When

Why

What for

How

Long

Far

(Deep)

...

25

It's been over six months since I last saw Dan.

SEEN

I .....over six months.

26

The match went ahead despite the wet weather.

.....

27

"You took the last piece of chocolate!" Hannah said to Paul.

.....

ACCUSED

- S
- Setting/Scene
- P
- Participants
- E
- Ends
- A
- Act Sequence
- K
- Key
- I
- Instrumentalities
- N
- Norms of Interaction
- G
- Genre

➡

1 In style

2 Taking it easy

3 You are what you eat

4 What's on

5 The great outdoors

6 Away we go

7 Work life

8 Get set, go!

9 Lifelong learning

10 Getting better

11 House and home

12 Technology today

1

**TODAY'S TOUR CANCELLED**  
Our tour guide is unwell, so there's nobody to show us around the Old Town today. Sorry.  
Only two people paid in advance – you'll get your money back.  
Tomorrow's trip to the castle is still happening if it stays warm and dry.

Why is the tour cancelled?  
A Not enough people bought tickets.  
B Somebody is ill.  
C The weather isn't good.

Maybe I didn't treat you  
Quite as good as I should have  
Maybe I didn't love you  
Quite as often as I could have

Little things I should have said and done  
I just never took the time  
You were always on my mind  
You were always on my mind

Maybe I didn't hold you  
All those lonely, lonely times  
And I guess I never told you  
I'm so happy that you're mine  
If I made you feel second best  
Girl, I'm so sorry, I was blind

➡

**Genre Transformation:**  
-a poem  
-a text message  
-a blog entry  
-an Instagram post  
-a letter (of complaint!)

Elvis Presley

Willie Nelson

Pet Shop Boys

Chris de Burgh

... Brenda Lee

	Rythm, Tempo	Mood, Style	Instrumentation	Personal 1 to 10
Willie Nelson				
Elvis Presley				
Pet Shop Boys				
Chris de Burgh				
Brenda Lee				

which features of music could students compare when analysing two versions of the same song?

When students analyze two versions of the same song, they can compare a variety of musical features to gain insight into interpretation, style, and arrangement. Here are key features they might focus on:

1. Instrumentation and Arrangement

• What instruments are used?

• Are there differences in the texture (e.g. full band vs. acoustic)?

• Is the arrangement more complex or more stripped down in one version?

2. Tempo and Rhythm

↓

*paraphrase* has developed meanings and uses in subjects including

literary and textual criticism (early 1600s)

music (mid 1700s)

Christianity (mid 1700s)

visual arts (1950s)

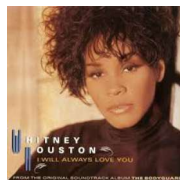
## Musical Paraphrasing for Mood and Tone

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1. Formal
2. Sarcastic
3. News

1. My feelings for you will persist indefinitely
2. Apparently, I'm doomed to adore you forever
3. Sources confirm enduring emotional attachment

- ✓ Have you ever seen the rain? (Creedence)
- ✓ I still haven't found what I'm looking for (U2)
- ✓ Since you've been gone (Kelly Clarkson)



## Bonus: Great Songs for Paraphrasing Practice

Song	Why It Works
"Let It Be" – The Beatles	Simple phrasing, deep meaning
"Someone Like You" – Adele	Emotional nuance, great for tone practice
"Boulevard of Broken Dreams" – Green Day	Figurative language, metaphors
"Fast Car" – Tracy Chapman	Storytelling, past tense narrative
"Imagine" – John Lennon	Universal themes, idealistic tone

## Bonus: Useful TV Shows & Films for Paraphrasing Practice

Title	Why It Works
<i>Modern Family</i>	Family misunderstandings, varied tone
<i>Gilmore Girls</i>	Fast-paced, paraphrasing idiomatic language
<i>Sherlock (BBC)</i>	High-register English + Watson's paraphrasing
<i>Harry Potter</i>	Rich in metaphor, formality, and magical euphemisms
<i>The Crown</i>	Formal vs. informal speech patterns
<i>Ted Lasso</i>	Emotional tone, slang, and motivational paraphrasing

## Dialogic Paraphrasing – with a twist.

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Singular, Plural,  
Partitive,  
Articles.  
"some / every item"

Container-content:  
Metonymy.



Spokenness: like,  
sort of, you know  
+ Feedback as  
paraphrase

Clarity, brevity,  
"often humorous": the  
sociopragmatics of  
paraphrasing.

Cf Thanks. I appreciate it  
Sure, anytime.

## Metalinguistic Paraphrasing: A smattering of grammar points

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Grammar point	Usual info	What may be added
Relative Clauses	Essential vs. Non-essential	Registers: (in)formal
Passive	Word order: S.V.O.	CDA – agency hidden!
Have/get sth done	sbv does it for you	Get your room cleaned!
I got invited	= Be Passive	Problematicity / "Face"
Will / going to	Predictions with(out) evidence	Speaker's choice!

## To conclude

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- From Sentence to Context; From Context to Sentence.
- Use a Wh-Framework for the contextualization (or S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G.).
- Infuse paraphrasing into skills work (e.g. reading / listening).
- Beyond synonymy: which additional communicative layers?
- Use music and video for tone, style, and nuances and of paraphrasing.
- Stay critical of the (absence of) sociopragmatic features of (metalinguistic) paraphrasing.

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Thank you!

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Questions?  
Comments?



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