

Boost Free Lessons - Year 7 English

Lesson 9: Finding Key Points and Summarising

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Find the key point in the paragraph below.

Sea otters eat large numbers of sea urchins. Where otters disappear, urchin populations explode and strip the kelp forests bare. Protecting otters therefore protects the entire kelp ecosystem.

1. A **key point** is the main idea, not the most interesting detail.
2. Test each sentence by asking whether the paragraph would still make sense without it.
3. The first two sentences give evidence. The last draws the conclusion they lead to.
4. The key point is usually the first or last sentence, and the others support it.

The key point is that protecting sea otters protects the whole kelp ecosystem.

Worked Example 2

Summarise the paragraph below in one sentence.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge opened in 1932. It took eight years to build, used six million rivets, and was constructed from both ends at once until the two arches met in the middle.

1. Find the key point first: the bridge opened in 1932.
2. Then decide which details are essential. The rivet count is interesting but not needed.
3. The building method is the striking fact, so it earns its place.
4. Write it in **your own words**. Copying sentences is not summarising.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge, built from both ends over eight years, opened in 1932.

Remember: The **key point** is the main idea, usually first or last. A good summary is much **shorter**, keeps only the key points, and is written in **your own words**. Never add your own opinion.



Question 1: Answer each question briefly.

1. Where in a paragraph does the main idea usually appear?

2. What is the name for a sentence that states the main idea?

3. What question tests whether a sentence is a key point?

4. Roughly how long should a summary be compared with the original?

5. Should a summary include your own opinion?

6. Why must a summary be written in your own words?



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

Bees are essential to food production. They pollinate crops as they feed, and about one third of the food we eat depends on that pollination. Honey is sold in jars in every supermarket.

Bee numbers, however, are falling. Pesticides, disease and habitat loss have all been blamed, and fewer bees means smaller harvests.

1. What is the key point of the first paragraph?

2. What is the key point of the second paragraph?

3. Which sentence could be removed without losing the main idea?

4. Name two details that a summary should leave out.

5. Summarise the whole passage in one sentence.

6. Write a suitable heading for the passage.



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Summarise the passage above in exactly ten words.

2. Why is summarising in ten words harder than in thirty?

3. Explain the difference between summarising and copying.

4. Why is summarising useful outside of English lessons?





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Answers and Model Responses: Finding Key Points and Summarising**Question 1**

1. Usually the first or the last sentence.
2. A topic sentence.
3. Would the paragraph still make sense without this sentence?
4. Much shorter, often a quarter of the length or less.
5. No. A summary reports what the text says, not what you think of it.
6. It proves you understood the text, and copying is plagiarism.

Question 2

1. Bees are essential to food production because they pollinate crops.
2. Bee numbers are falling, and this threatens food supplies.
3. The sentence about honey being sold in jars, which is unrelated to pollination or decline.
4. Model response: the honey detail, and the list of possible causes.
5. Bees pollinate a large share of our food crops, so their decline puts food supplies at risk.
6. Model response: Why declining bee numbers matter.

Question 3

1. Model response: Bees pollinate a third of our food, and numbers are falling.
2. Every word has to earn its place, so you must decide what is truly essential rather than simply trimming.
3. Copying reproduces the writer's exact words. Summarising rewrites the main ideas in your own words and leaves out minor detail.
4. It is how you take useful notes, explain something quickly, and check that you actually understood what you read.

