

Gr 5 English Home Language

Summary

If your friend were absent the previous day and asked you what had happened at school. What would you reply? You have just 40 seconds to do so before the bell rings.

Choose one of the following options:

- a) I would mention all the details of the day, from the moment we entered the class until the end of the day.
- b) I would just mention the important things that he/she needs to know.
- c) I would quote what the teacher said exactly.



You should choose b), because you need to summarize the day and just mention the important things.

What is summarizing?

When you take a longer piece of writing or speech and make it much shorter by mentioning only the important points.

A good summary must:

- just mention the main/most important details
- not have many examples
- be written in a clear, short sentence
- not be copied word for word

Choose the answer that best summarizes the following paragraph.

I was so scared when I first learned that I would be having my tooth pulled. I did not sleep at all the night before. I was terrified that it would hurt more than I could stand. I was shaking when I sat in the dentist's chair. She promised me that it would not hurt, but I certainly had my doubts. The dentist gave me some medicine. When I awoke, my tooth was gone, and I did not remember a thing.

- a) The writer had toothache. She was scared and could not sleep all night.
- b) The dentist gave me some medicine. When I awoke, my tooth was gone.
- c) The dentist gave the writer medicine, to help when her tooth was pulled.

Summaries can be based on fiction (stories) or non-fiction (facts) passages.

When summarizing stories, you can use “the hand method”.

Write the 5 W's (who, when, where, what, why on each finger and how in the palm)

1. Write who was in the story in five words.
2. Write what happened in ten to fifteen words.
3. Write when it happened in five words.
4. Write where it happened in five words.
5. Write why it happened in five words.
6. Write how it happened in five words.



Then you can write the steps in full sentences, taking note of the word limit.

If you have more words than the limit, then you need to leave out some unnecessary details.

Summarise the story below, by using the hand method. Just write the 6 steps.

The Dove and the Ant

On a hot day of summer, an ant was searching for some water. After walking around for some time, she came near the river. To drink the water, she climbed up on a small rock. While trying to drink a water, she slipped and fell into the river.

There was a dove sitting on a branch of a tree who saw an ant falling into the river. The dove quickly plucked a leaf and dropped it into the river near the struggling ant. The ant moved towards the leaf and climbed up onto it. Soon, the leaf drifted to dry ground, and the ant jumped out. She looked up to the tree and thanked the dove.

Later, the same day, a bird catcher nearby was about to throw his net over the dove hoping to trap it. An ant saw him and guessed what he was about to do. The dove was resting and he had no idea about the bird catcher. An ant quickly bit him on the foot. Feeling the pain, the bird catcher dropped his net and let out a light scream. The dove noticed it and quickly flew away.



Summaries of non-fiction passages

- First read the passage.
- Pick out or highlight the main points.
- Number them on the passage.
- Write them in points below each other.
- Use short full sentences.
- Stick to the word limit.
- Do not copy word for word.

Read the following paragraph on classroom rules.

Write down five rules aimed at your classmates, that will be written on a poster and then put up in the class. Number your points 1 – 5. Word limit: 35 words.

Classroom Rules

It is important to have rules in the classroom. If you do not have any rules it will lead to chaos and you will not know how to act. Learners must be on time in the morning and after breaks. It is very important to have all homework done. Stay on your side of the desk, so keep your hands and feet to yourself. It does not help if you do not listen to your teacher. It is important to raise your hand if you want to say something, for example asking to leave the classroom.

