

How to Summarise – TASKS

Academic Writing – Incorporating Evidence (summarising)

You have identified suitable ideas from your reading. Simply copying these does not show understanding. You need to rephrase these to form part of your argument.

Summarising

Finding the main point. Read each extract and try to find the main idea contained in each one. Write a short sentence to summarise the point.

Example:

'People whose professional activity lies in the field of politics are not, on the whole, conspicuous for their respect for factual accuracy'.

Politicians often lie.

- a. Failure to assimilate an adequate quantity of solid food over an extended period of time is absolutely certain to lead, in due course, to a fatal conclusion.

- b. The climatic conditions prevailing in the British Isles show a pattern of alternating and unpredictable periods of dry and wet weather, accompanied by a similarly irregular cycle of temperature changes.

- c. It is undeniable that the large majority of non-native learners of English experience a number of problems in attempting to master the phonetic patterns of the language.



- d. Tea, whether of the China or Indian variety, is well known to be high on the list of those beverages which are most frequently drunk by the inhabitants of the British Isles.

- e. It is not uncommon to encounter sentences which, though they contain a great number of words and are constructed in a highly complex way, none the less turn out on inspection to convey very little meaning of any kind.

- f. One of the most noticeable phenomena in any big city, such as London or Paris, is the steadily increasing number of petrol-driven vehicles, some in private ownership, others belonging to the public transport system, which congest the roads and render rapid movement more difficult year by year.