



Later, you will  
write a summary  
of 'Elephant'

**E**lephants like to forage in forests where they can eat juicy young leaves and twigs from the treetops. You can hear them breaking off branches and munching. You can even hear the rumbling of their stomachs.

# Summary



**How to write  
a great  
summary**

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**Summary writing** is an important writing skill. As you rise in grade levels you will have to do it a lot. It's a great way to really learn what is in a text, because to write a good summary you must understand the text well enough to:

1. know what the most important ideas are (which ideas to include and which to leave out of your summary)
2. write the ideas in your own words (change the words and sentence structure)



# Plagiarism



- Plagiarism is stealing others' words & ideas.
- A summary must be written in your own words.
- Copying others' writing without giving credit is stealing
- Sometimes people do it because it's easier than thinking for themselves.
- Other times we do it by accident – so we must be careful!



Rewriting a text using our own words is called paraphrasing.

## How to Paraphrase

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1. Read the text carefully for understanding.
2. Write notes of the main ideas and supporting details. (An outline is helpful for this.)
3. Next, try to write out sentences expressing these ideas and support in your own words.
  - Don't just change a few words. You should often **change the sentence structure** when you paraphrase.
  - Use a **thesaurus to find synonyms** for some words if you get stuck.
4. Check it. Did you restate **all** the important ideas.



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
LET'S  
PRACTICE

Have paper  
and a pen  
ready!

Let's work with  
this text:

### Learn about Fables

A fable is a story. A wise author would write the fable to tell a lesson. Long ago, people wrote many fables. They wrote them to help other people learn. For example, the tortoise and the hare is a fable. That fable tells people it is not wise to show off. It is wise to work hard.

Most fables have animals in them. The animals talk. Of course in real life an animal can't talk. But in the fables, they do. The animals often do foolish things. For example, in one fable there is a crow. It wants to get a delicious fruit. It takes it from a garden. And it gets it. But then as the crow soars it shows off. It opens its mouth to shout, "Look, I got the best fruit." But of course the crow loses the fruit. It falls out of its mouth because it opened its mouth to shout.

Fables have a moral. A moral is the lesson it teaches. The fable about the crow makes an important point. It tells you that people should be careful. It tells you that the crow was foolish.

There is another fable about the ant and the grasshopper. The grasshopper played all summer while the ant toiled. The ant got ready for winter. The ant was a hard worker. It dug a hole to stay in during winter. It carried food to that hole. When winter came, the ant was able to live. The grasshopper did not have any food. It had no place to stay. Winter was a great challenge for the grasshopper. It asked the ant for help. The ant was generous. The ant did help the grasshopper. The grasshopper learned a lesson. So did everyone who read the fable.

# Which paraphrase plagiarizes?

## *Original Text*

A fable is a story. A wise author would write the fable to tell a lesson. Long ago, people wrote many fables. They wrote them to help other people learn. For example, the tortoise and the hare is a fable. That fable tells people it is not wise to show off. It is wise to work hard.

## *Summaries*

A

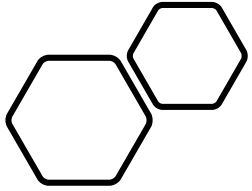
Fables are stories. A wise writer would write the story to tell a lesson. Many years ago, people wrote many fables. They wrote them to help others learn. One example is the tortoise and the hare, which is a fable. It shows people it's not wise to show off. It's better to work hard.



B

Fables are short stories. Many years ago they were a popular way to teach people lessons about how to live well. The tortoise and the hare is an example of a fable that teaches us to be hard-working and humble.



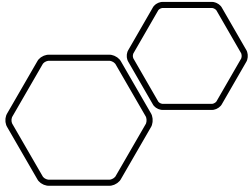


## Your turn!

Most fables have animals in them. The animals talk. Of course in real life an animal can't talk. But in the fables, they do. The animals often do foolish things. For example, in one fable there is a crow. It wants to get a delicious fruit. It takes it from a garden. And it gets it. But then as the crow soars it shows off. It opens its mouth to shout, "Look, I got the best fruit." But of course the crow loses the fruit. It falls out of its mouth because it opened its mouth to shout.



Personified animals are common characters in fables. They usually do something silly and the consequences of this foolishness demonstrates the moral of the fable.

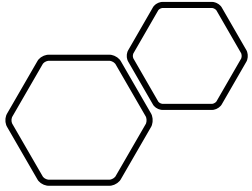


## And the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph

Fables have a moral. A moral is the lesson it teaches. The fable about the crow makes an important point. It tells you that people should be careful. It tells you that the crow was foolish.



Fables teach a lesson called a moral. The fable with the crow teaches us not to be careless.



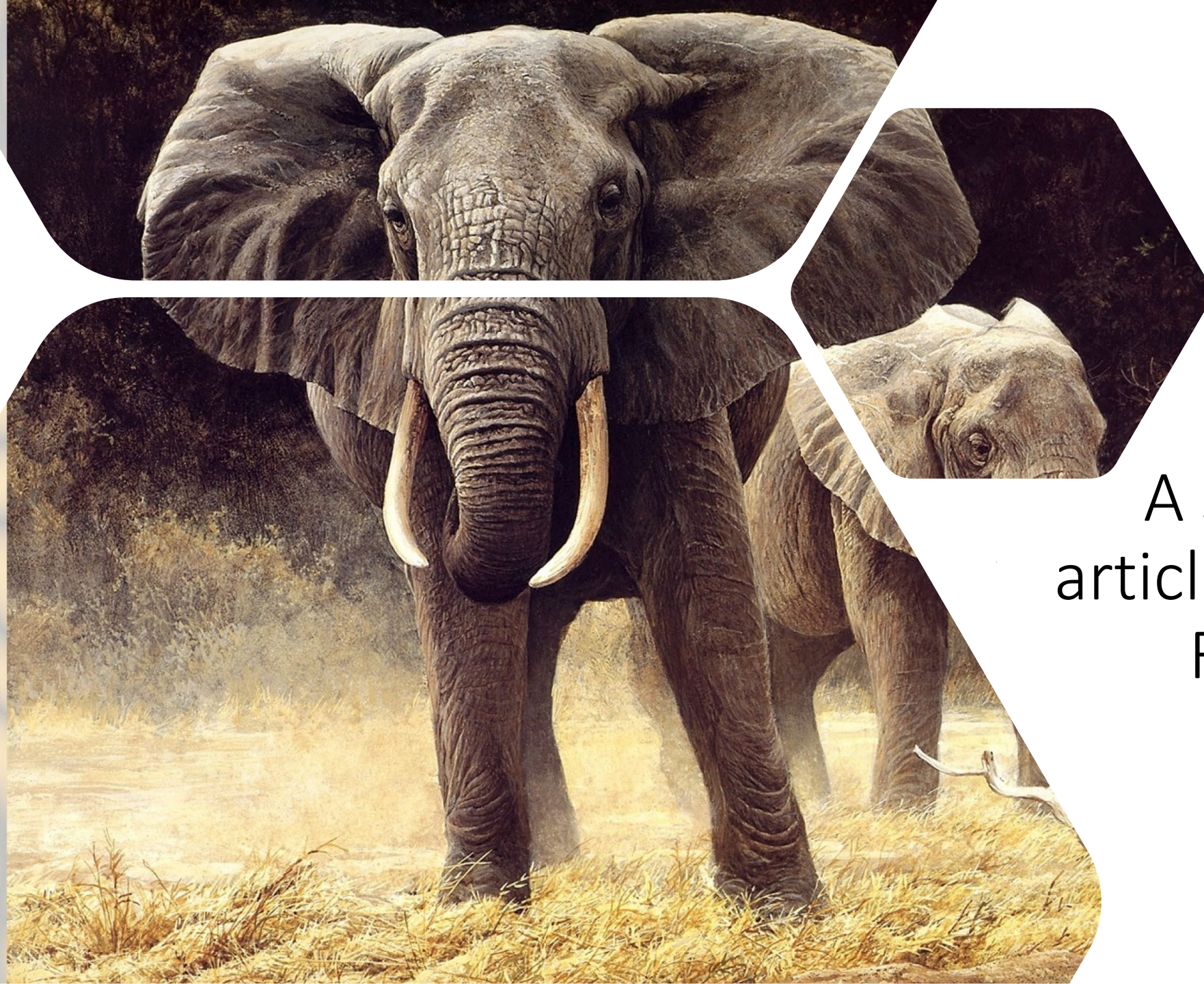
## And the last paragraph

There is another fable about the ant and the grasshopper. The grasshopper played all summer while the ant toiled. The ant got ready for winter. The ant was a hard worker. It dug a hole to stay in during winter. It carried food to that hole. When winter came, the ant was able to live. The grasshopper did not have any food. It had no place to stay. Winter was a great challenge for the grasshopper. It asked the ant for help. The ant was generous. The ant did help the grasshopper. The grasshopper learned a lesson. So did everyone who read the fable.



From a fable with a  
hardworking ant and a lazy  
grasshopper the reader learns  
that we must think about the  
future consequences of our  
actions.





A summary of the  
article, 'Elephant', by  
Robert Bateman



# You've already found the important points

## **Eating habits**

- constantly eat vegetation, including juicy young leaves and twigs from the treetops, grass & fruit.

## **Where they live**

southern, central & eastern Africa. – forests, grasslands & river valleys.

## **Size**

the largest land animals. They weigh up to 6,250kg and grow to as tall as 4 metres.

## **Leader of the herd**

oldest female, is called a matriarch. Remembers where to find food/water.

## **Young Male Elephants**

The young males wander around by themselves. Sometimes they fight one another.



*Remember!!*

## 4 R'S OF PARAPHRASING

**REWORD:** Can you replace any words with synonyms?

**REARRANGE:** Can you move some words or phrases around?

**REALIZE:** Some information (names, dates, titles, etc.) can't be changed.

**RECHECK:** Did you include the important information? Does it make sense?



You can start  
your summary  
like this...

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### Summary of 'Elephant'

This is a summary of a chapter  
in a book by Robert Bateman called  
'Safari' and its all about African  
elephants.

continue.....