



IELTS BASIC



Paraphrase

I contain multitudes

Wendy Moore reviews Ed Yong's book about microbes

Microbes, most of them bacteria, have populated this planet since long before animal life developed and they will outlive us. Invisible to the naked eye, they are ubiquitous. They inhabit the soil, air, rocks and water and are present within every form of life, from seaweed and coral to dogs and humans. And, as Yong explains in his utterly absorbing and hugely important book, we mess with them at our peril.

- 14** What point does the writer make about microbes in the first paragraph?
- A** They adapt quickly to their environment.
 - B** The risk they pose has been exaggerated.
 - C** They are more plentiful in animal life than plant life.
 - D** They will continue to exist for longer than the human race.

Every species has its own colony of microbes, called a ‘microbiome’, and these microbes vary not only between species but also between individuals and within different parts of each individual. What is amazing is that while the number of human cells in the average person is about 30 trillion, the number of microbial ones is higher – about 39 trillion. At best, Yong informs us, we are only 50 per cent human. Indeed, some scientists even suggest we should think of each species and its microbes as a single unit, dubbed a ‘holobiont’.

- 15** In the second paragraph, the writer is impressed by the fact that
- A** each species tends to have vastly different microbes.
 - B** some parts of the body contain relatively few microbes.
 - C** the average individual has more microbial cells than human ones.
 - D** scientists have limited understanding of how microbial cells behave.

PART 4 Questions 31–40

Complete the notes below.

*Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.*

Tardigrades

- more than 1,000 species, 0.05–1.2 millimetres long
- also known as water 'bears' (due to how they **31**) and 'moss piglets'

Physical appearance

- a **32** round body and four pairs of legs
- claws or **33** for gripping
- absence of respiratory organs
- body filled with a liquid that carries both **34** and blood

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PART 4

For my project on invertebrates, I chose to study tardigrades. These are microscopic – or to be more precise – near-microscopic animals. There are well over a thousand known species of these tiny animals, which belong to the phylum *Tardigrada*. Most tardigrades range in length from 0.05 to 1 millimetre, though the largest species can grow to be 1.2 millimetres in length. They are also sometimes called 'water bears': 'water' because that's where they thrive best, and 'bear' because of the way they move. 'Moss piglet' is another name for tardigrades because of the way they look when viewed from the front. They were first discovered in Germany in 1773 by Johann Goeze, who coined the name *Tardigrada*.

Q31

As I say, there are many different species of tardigrade – too many to describe here – but, generally speaking, the different species share similar physical traits. They have a body which is short, and also rounded – a bit like a barrel – and the body comprises four segments. Each segment has a pair of legs, at the end of which are between four and eight sharp claws. I should also say that some species don't have any claws; what they have are discs, and these work by means of suction. They enable the tardigrade to cling on to surfaces or to grip its prey. Within the body, there are no lungs, or any organs for breathing at all. Instead, oxygen and also blood are transported in a fluid that fills the cavity of the body.

Q32

Q33

Q34

Here are some key points about paraphrasing:

1. **Use Your Own Words:** Change the structure and words of the original sentence or passage, but maintain the core message.
2. **Synonyms and Sentence Structure:** Replace words with synonyms where appropriate and modify sentence structure to make it distinct from the original.
3. **Maintain the Meaning:** The paraphrased version should convey the same meaning as the original. Avoid changing the message or distorting the facts.
4. **Shorten or Expand:** You can make the text more concise or detailed depending on the context.

For example:

Original: *The city of Dhaka is known for its vibrant culture and crowded streets.*

Paraphrase: *Dhaka is famous for its lively culture and bustling streets.*

Paraphrasing is an essential skill for the IELTS exam, especially in the Writing and Speaking sections. It shows your ability to use a wide range of vocabulary and sentence structures, which can improve your overall band score. Here's how to effectively paraphrase in IELTS:

1. Use Synonyms:

Replace words with their synonyms, but make sure the meaning stays the same. Be cautious with words that have subtle differences in meaning.

- **Original:** Many people believe that technology has a negative effect on society.
- **Paraphrase:** A large number of individuals think that technology impacts society in a harmful way.

2. Change Word Forms:

Use different forms of the same word, such as changing a noun to a verb, or an adjective to an adverb.

- **Original:** Pollution in cities is increasing at an alarming rate.
- **Paraphrase:** Cities are becoming increasingly polluted at a frightening pace.

3. Change Sentence Structure:

Rearrange the sentence without changing its meaning. For example, if the original sentence is active, try to make it passive.

- **Original:** The government should take steps to reduce traffic congestion.
- **Paraphrase:** Steps should be taken by the government to decrease traffic jams.

4. Use Different Grammar:

You can use different grammatical structures, such as conditional sentences or compound sentences.

- **Original:** Schools must introduce technology in classrooms to enhance learning.
- **Paraphrase:** If schools introduce technology in classrooms, it will improve learning.

5. Change Word Order:

Rearranging the order of words can also make a sentence different without altering its meaning.

- **Original:** Fast food has become extremely popular among young people.
- **Paraphrase:** Among young people, fast food has gained immense popularity.

6. Break Down Complex Sentences:

If the original sentence is long or complicated, break it into smaller, simpler sentences, or vice versa.

- **Original:** Due to the increasing number of cars on the road, air pollution has become a significant issue in urban areas.
- **Paraphrase:** Air pollution has become a major problem in cities because the number of cars is rising.

7. Avoid Copying Long Phrases:

When paraphrasing, make sure you're not just replacing a few words but actually changing the structure. Copying more than three consecutive words from the original text can be considered plagiarism.

Example in IELTS Writing Task 2:

Question: Some people think that government should ban dangerous sports, while others believe that people should have the freedom to choose activities they enjoy.

Paraphrased Introduction: While certain individuals argue that hazardous sports should be prohibited by authorities, others feel that individuals should have the liberty to select the activities they find enjoyable.

Tips for IELTS Speaking:

In the Speaking test, paraphrasing helps you avoid repeating the examiner's question. For example, if asked, "*Do you enjoy traveling?*", you could respond, "*Yes, I really love visiting new places,*" instead of just repeating "enjoy traveling."

In the IELTS Reading section, paraphrasing is crucial for answering questions accurately, especially for identifying correct answers in tasks like True/False/Not Given, Multiple Choice, and Matching Information. The questions are often phrased differently from the text, so recognizing paraphrased information helps you locate answers more effectively.

1. Recognize Synonyms and Word Variations:

The IELTS Reading test often uses synonyms or related words in questions and passages. Identifying these can help you match the question with the correct part of the text.

- **Passage:** "The company raised profits by reducing production costs."
- **Question:** "The firm increased earnings by cutting expenses."

Explanation: "Raised profits" = "Increased earnings", and "reducing production costs" = "cutting expenses."

2. Look for Changes in Sentence Structure:

Sometimes, the same information is presented with a different sentence structure in the question or passage.

- **Passage:** "The introduction of new policies improved employee satisfaction."
- **Question:** "Employees were more satisfied after new policies were implemented."

Explanation: The key information ("new policies improved employee satisfaction") is paraphrased into a passive structure, "Employees were more satisfied after new policies."

3. Pay Attention to Word Forms:

Questions might use a different form of the same word. Recognizing these word forms is essential for identifying paraphrased content.

- **Passage:** "The rapid development of technology has changed communication."
- **Question:** "Technology has developed quickly and altered communication."

Explanation: "Rapid development" = "developed quickly" and "changed" = "altered."

4. Identify Related Concepts:

Paraphrasing may also involve using related words that refer to the same concept. Understanding these relationships can help you match ideas.

- **Passage:** "Many people travel to enjoy beautiful scenery."
- **Question:** "A significant number of individuals visit places to appreciate natural landscapes."

Explanation: "Many people" = "a significant number of individuals," and "beautiful scenery" = "natural landscapes."

5. Spot Generalization or Specification:

Sometimes a broad idea is paraphrased as something more specific, or vice versa.

- **Passage:** "Some wild animals have adapted to urban environments."
- **Question:** "Certain species of wildlife have learned to survive in cities."

Explanation: "Some wild animals" = "certain species of wildlife" and "urban environments" = "cities."

6. Understand the Logic of the Sentence:

Sometimes paraphrasing involves rephrasing logical connections, like cause-effect or contrast.

- **Passage:** "Due to the high cost of living, many residents are moving to smaller cities."
- **Question:** "Many people are relocating to less expensive cities because living costs are high."

Explanation: The cause ("high cost of living") and effect ("residents moving") are paraphrased with "relocating" and "less expensive cities."

7. Paraphrasing Examples in IELTS Reading:

Example 1:

- **Passage:** "The program aims to teach children how to protect the environment."
- **Question:** "The initiative is designed to educate young people about environmental conservation."

Paraphrase Breakdown:

- "Aims" = "is designed"
- "Teach" = "educate"
- "Children" = "young people"
- "Protect the environment" = "environmental conservation"

Example 2:

- **Passage:** "The factory was established in the 19th century."
- **Question:** "The plant was set up in the 1800s."

Paraphrase Breakdown:

- "Factory" = "plant"
- "Established" = "set up"
- "19th century" = "1800s"

Tips for Success:

1. **Practice Synonyms:** Build your vocabulary by learning synonyms and related phrases.
2. **Scan for Keywords:** Skim the passage for keywords or phrases in the questions, then identify their paraphrased versions in the text.
3. **Analyze Question Patterns:** Get familiar with how questions paraphrase content by practicing with past IELTS papers.

Paraphrasing is also important in the IELTS Listening test, as questions often paraphrase the words or phrases used in the audio recording. To answer correctly, you need to recognize these paraphrased versions of the information provided in the audio.

1. Listen for Synonyms and Related Words:

The audio might use different words or phrases from those found in the questions. Be ready to identify synonyms or expressions that mean the same thing.

- **Audio:** "He made a lot of mistakes in the report."
- **Question:** "He didn't do a good job on the report."

Explanation: "Made a lot of mistakes" = "didn't do a good job."

2. Understand Rephrased Ideas:

The information in the audio might be rephrased with different structures or explanations in the questions.

- **Audio:** "The weather is expected to improve by the afternoon."
- **Question:** "What time will the weather get better?"

Explanation: "Improve by the afternoon" = "get better in the afternoon."

3. Be Aware of Changes in Sentence Structure:

Just like in reading, the sentence structure might be altered while retaining the same meaning.

- **Audio:** "We've had to increase production because of high demand."
- **Question:** "Why did the company boost production?"

Explanation: "Increase production" = "boost production," and "because of high demand" = the reason.

4. Look for Opposite Expressions:

Sometimes, the audio will state something in a negative way, while the question may phrase it positively, or vice versa.

- **Audio:** "He wasn't interested in the job offer."
- **Question:** "Why did he reject the job offer?"

Explanation: "Wasn't interested" implies "rejected."

5. Pay Attention to Time and Numbers:

Time and numbers can be paraphrased in various ways, like giving exact numbers, ranges, or different ways of expressing time.

- **Audio:** "The lecture will last for an hour and a half."
- **Question:** "How long is the lecture?"

Explanation: "An hour and a half" = "90 minutes."

6. Identify Relationships Between Ideas:

The audio might explain ideas in a way that connects cause and effect, or contrasts two ideas. Be ready to recognize these connections.

- **Audio:** "He can't attend the meeting because he has a dentist appointment."
- **Question:** "Why can't he attend the meeting?"

Explanation: The cause ("dentist appointment") is paraphrased to answer why he can't attend.

7. Common Examples of Paraphrasing in IELTS Listening:

Example 1:

- **Audio:** "She's decided to quit her job at the factory and pursue a career in teaching."
- **Question:** "What career is she planning to start?"
- **Paraphrase:** "Pursue a career in teaching" = "planning to start a teaching career."

Example 2:

- **Audio:** "We had to postpone the event due to heavy rain."
- **Question:** "Why was the event delayed?"
- **Paraphrase:** "Postpone" = "delay," and "due to heavy rain" explains the reason.

8. Focus on Context:

Sometimes a word in the question might seem unrelated to what you hear, but the context can help you understand the paraphrase.

- **Audio:** "The room was far too noisy to concentrate."
- **Question:** "What problem did she have in the room?"
- **Paraphrase:** "Far too noisy" refers to the "problem" (distraction from noise).

9. Look for Keywords:

In the Listening test, keywords in the questions often signal important information in the recording. The words may not be identical, but recognizing how they are paraphrased helps.

- **Audio:** "We need to finish the report by Friday."
- **Question:** "When is the deadline for the report?"
- **Paraphrase:** "Finish by Friday" = "deadline is Friday."

Tips for IELTS Listening Paraphrasing:

1. **Expand Your Vocabulary:** Learn common synonyms and phrases used in everyday situations, as this helps with recognizing paraphrased information.
2. **Practice Active Listening:** Focus on how speakers naturally change sentence structures or use different expressions.
3. **Use IELTS Practice Tests:** Familiarize yourself with how questions and answers are paraphrased by working through listening practice materials.
4. **Listen for Context, Not Exact Words:** Train yourself to listen for meaning and overall context rather than trying to catch exact words.
5. **Note Keywords in Questions:** Underline or note keywords in the questions, so when listening, you can match paraphrased expressions in the audio.

In IELTS Speaking, paraphrasing is a key skill that shows your ability to express ideas flexibly using a range of vocabulary and grammar. It's particularly useful when answering questions without repeating the exact words used by the examiner. This can help you improve your coherence and lexical resource scores.

Here's how to effectively use paraphrasing in IELTS Speaking:

1. Use Synonyms:

Replace common words with synonyms to avoid repetition and showcase your vocabulary.

- **Examiner:** "Do you like watching movies?"
- **Answer:** "Yes, I really enjoy films, especially comedies."

Paraphrase: "Watching movies" becomes "enjoy films."

2. Rephrase Questions:

Before giving your answer, you can paraphrase the examiner's question to show your understanding and give yourself time to think.

- **Examiner:** "What's your favorite book?"
- **Answer:** "One book that I really love is 'Harry Potter' because of its magical world."

Paraphrase: "Favorite" is changed to "really love."

3. Change Sentence Structure:

You can rephrase an idea by changing the sentence structure while keeping the meaning the same.

- **Examiner:** "What do you do in your free time?"
- **Answer:** "In my spare time, I usually go hiking or read novels."

Paraphrase: "Free time" becomes "spare time."

4. Use Idiomatic Expressions:

Instead of directly answering with simple words, you can use idiomatic expressions to convey the same idea in a more advanced way.

- **Examiner:** "Are you a morning person?"
- **Answer:** "Yes, I'm definitely an early bird. I love getting things done in the morning."

Paraphrase: "Morning person" is rephrased as "early bird."

5. Change Word Forms:

You can also paraphrase by changing the form of a word, like turning a noun into a verb or an adjective into an adverb.

- **Examiner:** "Is it important to keep fit?"
- **Answer:** "Staying in good shape is essential for health."

Paraphrase: "Keep fit" becomes "stay in good shape."

6. Use Descriptive Language:

If you can't think of a synonym, you can describe what the word means instead.

- **Examiner:** "What is your hometown famous for?"
- **Answer:** "My city is well-known for its historical landmarks, particularly its ancient castles."

Paraphrase: "Famous for" becomes "well-known for."

7. Use Comparisons:

You can paraphrase an idea by comparing it to something similar.

- **Examiner:** "Do you think it's better to live in the city or the countryside?"
- **Answer:** "I believe city life is more convenient than rural life because of the easy access to services and entertainment."

Paraphrase: "Better" becomes "more convenient."

8. Combine or Split Sentences:

Instead of using the exact structure of the question, you can combine ideas or split a long sentence into shorter ones.

- **Examiner:** "Why do you think people exercise?"
- **Answer:** "People usually work out to stay healthy and fit. It also helps them relieve stress."

Paraphrase: "Exercise" becomes "work out," and the reason is split into two separate ideas.

Example of Paraphrasing in IELTS Speaking

Question: "What kind of weather do you like?"

- **Basic Answer:** "I like warm and sunny weather."
- **Paraphrased Answer:** "I really enjoy pleasant, sunny days because they make me feel energetic and happy."

Question: "What do you do to relax?"

- **Basic Answer:** "I listen to music to relax."
- **Paraphrased Answer:** "To unwind, I often put on some music, especially soft and calming tunes."

Tips for Paraphrasing in IELTS Speaking:

1. **Expand Your Vocabulary:** Learn synonyms for common words and practice using them naturally.
2. **Use Natural Language:** Paraphrasing should sound natural, not forced. Avoid over-complicating sentences.
3. **Practice with Questions:** Take common IELTS Speaking questions and practice answering them with different expressions each time.
4. **Stay Calm and Think:** If you don't know a synonym, use descriptive language or rephrase the idea.
5. **Listen to Native Speakers:** Watch interviews, TV shows, or podcasts to see how native speakers paraphrase naturally in conversations.

