Y5 Precis

KS2 Y5 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Shorten: 'The children ran, skipped, hopped and jumped all the way to the park.'

Step 1 · What is the main point?

The children went to the park energetically.

Step 2 · Replace the list with one precise word

ran, skipped, hopped, jumped → bounded

Answer: The children bounded to the park.

Check: 6 words instead of 14, with the same main meaning.

2. Now try one with the steps

Combine: 'Hedgehogs eat beetles. They also eat worms. They eat caterpillars too.'

Step 1 · Spot the repetition

Step 2 · Combine into one sentence

Step 3 · Or use a general word

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a précis?

2. Should a précis be shorter or longer than the original?

3. Name two things you can usually cut from a précis.

4. Replace the list with one word: 'cats, dogs, rabbits and hamsters'

5. Replace the list with one word: 'trains, buses, trams and taxis'

6. Combine into one sentence: 'Maya likes swimming. Maya likes tennis.'

7. Shorten: 'At this present moment in time, we are now leaving.'

8. Should you add your own opinion to a précis?

9. Shorten: 'The enormous, gigantic, huge elephant walked slowly and carefully across the hot, dusty plain.'

10. Write a one-sentence précis: 'Plastic bottles take hundreds of years to break down. Many end up in the sea, where they harm turtles, seabirds and fish. Using a refillable bottle helps.'

11. What is the difference between a précis and a retelling?

12. Why should a précis keep the main points in the same order original?

13. In the beach passage, why is 'lifeguards wear red and yellow' not a main point?

14. A passage has 150 words. Roughly how long should a précis of it be?

4. Before you hand it in

Copying out the first few sentences
Read the whole text first and pick main points from all of it.

Adding your own opinion or new facts
Only include what the writer said, in fewer words.

Keeping all the description

Cut examples, adjectives and repetition; keep the key ideas.

Cutting so much it no longer makes sense

Read it to a partner. Do they understand the main message?