

**Paraphrasing Exercises***adapted from <http://web.jjay.cuny.edu/~esl/paraphrasing1.htm>***Which sentences are closest in meaning to the five sentences below?**

1. 25% of adolescents who have one baby have a second baby within two years of the first baby's birth.
  - a. 25% of babies are born to mothers who are adolescents.
  - b. One out of four adolescent mothers has another baby before the first baby reaches his second birthday.
  - c. A quarter of adolescent mothers gives birth when their first born is two.
  - d. 25% of adolescent mothers become pregnant again when their first babies are two years old.
2. It has been reported that the richest one percent of Americans own 40% of the country's wealth.
  - a. The richest 1% are 40 times as wealthy as the rest of Americans.
  - b. If the gap between rich and poor continues to grow at the current rate, the richest one percent will soon own 40% of the country's wealth.
  - c. 40% of the country's wealth is in the hands of only 1% of Americans.
  - d. 99% of Americans own 40% as much as the richest 1%.
3. The judge was relieved when the jury was finally ready to announce its verdict.
  - a. When the jury announced its verdict, the judge was relieved.
  - b. The judge asked the jury to arrive at a verdict.
  - c. The judge welcomed the prospect of an imminent verdict.
  - d. The jury welcomed the judge's relief.
4. Research data suggest that girls who witnessed maternal abuse may tolerate abuse as adults more than girls who did not.
  - a. Women who witnessed the abuse of their mother as teens are more likely to become abusive adults.
  - b. Women who observed the abuse of their mothers when they were young are more likely to endure abuse themselves.
  - c. Women who were abused as children are more likely to abuse their own children.
  - d. Girls who testify about maternal abuse tolerate abuse as adults more readily.
5. Martha thinks that the issue of adolescent problems is important to write about.
  - a. Martha thinks that adolescents like to write about their problems.
  - b. Martha feels that writing about adolescent problems is worthwhile.
  - c. Martha believes that the dream of most adolescents is to write something important.
  - d. Martha thinks that adolescents can write about their problems.

**Write your own paraphrase for the following sentences:**

1. A local newspaper claims that 75% of all homeless people do not like homeless shelters and prefer to live as they do now.  
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2. Ronny told his aunt that a bear had attacked him, which she found difficult to believe.  
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3. Anyone who has ever driven through the Mojave Desert knows that one should always carry a supply of extra water.  
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4. Of the 138 million acres of land that Native Americans owned in 1887, 90 million acres were taken away by whites by 1932.  
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5. A woman who was nominated by the president to head the department was quickly approved by the board of trustees.  
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**Paraphrase the following sentences from student paragraphs to avoid plagiarism.**

1. However, college students today are the first groups of students to need the Internet for most of their schoolwork.

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2. Chinese speculators are able to realize profits from this buy-and-sell practice as property prices are currently on the upswing.

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3. Researchers have found a strong association between computer and Internet use in adolescents and engagement in multiple-risk behaviours (MRB), including illicit drug use, drunkenness and unprotected sex.

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4. Drug resistance remains a major problem in combating HIV infection, but a different approach to drug development could be the answer.

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5. North China's Shanxi Province, the country's largest coal supplier and most polluted region, has the dubious distinction of having 16 cities on the list. Neither Beijing nor Shanghai appear on the list .The report found that only 22.94 percent of sewage was treated adequately in the cities surveyed and less than 20 percent of household garbage met with proper handling. It said 178 cities examined had not built any sewage treatment facilities and 130 cities had not been equipped with garbage disposal plants.

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**Answers:**

**Which sentences are closest in meaning to the five sentences below?**

1. a.      2.      c      3.      c      4.      b      5.      b

**Write your own paraphrase for the following sentences:**

1. An article in a local newspaper reports that three out of four homeless people think that the streets are better than the so-called homeless shelters.
2. Ronny's aunt did not really believe his story about the bear attack.
3. The Mojave Desert is so hot that it is dangerous to try to cross it without plenty of water.
4. By 1932, Native Americans had less than half of the land they had owned only 45 years earlier.
5. The board of trustees agreed with the president to appoint a woman head of the department.

**Paraphrase the following sentences from student paragraphs to avoid plagiarism.**

1. The current generation of students in higher education today is the first to use the internet for the majority of their studies.
2. Beneficiaries of the rapidly rising housing prices are speculators from China who buy and quickly resell property at a profit.
3. Multiple-risk behaviours, such as alcohol, drug abuse and unprotected sex have been correlated with computer and Internet use, according to researchers.
4. A new approach to developing drugs might be the cure for the resistance problems found in current HIV drugs.
5. The report said that over three-fourths of the total cities surveyed had inadequate sewage treatment, and 178 had no sewage treatment plants at all. In addition, 130 cities had no garbage disposal plants, and indeed, almost 80 percent of household garbage was not treated according to standards. Shanxi Province, China's leading coal-producing area, lead the most polluted list with 16 cities while Beijing and Shanghai escaped the list entirely.