

LEAP INTO ENGLISH

TOEFL PREPARATION COURSE

Paraphrasing structures.

Paraphrasing means restating something in your own words. There are multiple ways of paraphrasing a sentence or a paragraph, but it's important that the meaning remains the same.

Study the following examples from the chart:

- Comparative structures

Navigation was far more difficult in ancient times than it is today.	Navigation is easier today than it was in ancient times.
Maps were less accurate in those days than they are today.	Maps were not as accurate then as they are today.

- Active and passive structures

Many voyages of exploration in the 16th century were funded by the kings of Spain and Portugal.	The kings of Spain and Portugal funded many voyages of exploration in the 16th century.
New trade routes were discovered from Europe to India and China.	Explorers discovered new trade routes from Europe to India and China.

- Prepositions

Owing to the 16th century voyages of exploration, navigators learned new methods of navigation.	Methods of navigation improved because of the explorations of 16th century voyages of exploration.
In addition to observing the stars, they navigated by measuring speed and direction.	They navigated by observing the stars, as well as by measuring speed and direction.

- Conjunctions

When Columbus returned from his voyage, he established contacts between Old and New Worlds.	Before Columbus's voyage, there had been no contact between Old and New Worlds.
They knew that the earth was round but they did not know the extent of the oceans.	They did not know the extent of the oceans, although they knew that the Earth was round.

- Modals

The effects of his arrival couldn't have been more significant.	It is not possible to overestimate the effects of his arrival.
Some historians consider that this event may have been the beginning of the process of globalization.	This event may be considered the beginning of the process of globalization.

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Practice. Complete the following activities

Rewrite each sentence so that it has the same meaning. Try to vary the sentence as much as possible.

1. The European expansion westward across the Atlantic was dominated in the 15th and 16th centuries by the Spanish.

The Spanish _____.

2. India and China had been known by Europeans for centuries, but the existence of the Americas was totally unsuspected.

Whereas _____.

3. The compass was in wide use, but most captains did not really understand why its needle pointed north.

Although _____.

4. Voyages could take several years and sailors sometimes died from lack of food and water.

Owing to _____.

5. Once the benefits of expansion had been proven, the Spanish and Portuguese monarchies decided to send soldiers to conquer these new lands.

Because _____.

6. The Spanish established an empire in the Americas, and Portugal created a trade monopoly in Asia.

While _____.

7. Portugal and Spain discovered new lands, and also pioneered the European discovery of sea routes that would connect the world.

In addition _____.