

Paraphrasing Ladder Worksheet

This worksheet helps teachers guide students through a three-step paraphrasing ladder — from controlled substitution to free rewording. Use it for 15–20 minute practice cycles in speaking classes (A2–C1).

Step 1 – Controlled Practice

Objective: Keep the meaning constant while changing basic sentence structure.

- Change the voice (active ↔ passive).
- Replace a clause with a noun phrase.
- Use synonym substitution without changing the message.

Step 2 – Guided Practice

Objective: Experiment with form and emphasis based on prompts.

- Reorder ideas (Reason → Result / Result → Reason).
- Create a formal and informal paraphrase.
- Explain why one version fits the context better.

Step 3 – Free Practice

Objective: Use paraphrasing naturally in spontaneous speaking.

- Paraphrase your partner's statement (e.g., 'So you mean that...').
- Summarize a 3-sentence opinion into one sentence.
- Record and notice meaning shifts.

Mini■Rubric for Assessment

Criterion	2 – Excellent	1 – Developing	0 – Needs Work
Meaning Preservation	Message fully retained.	Minor meaning loss.	Major distortion.
Structural Variety	Varied syntax accurately.	Some variation but repetitive.	No variation.
Fluency & Naturalness	Smooth and confident.	Some hesitation.	Halting speech.

Tip: Repeat the same ladder weekly with new topics so students internalize paraphrasing as an automatic skill.