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*Paraphrasing*  
*Examples*

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## How to know that an idea is meant as an example?

- Specific names of people, places or objects
- Particular dates or days
- Statistics or numerals
- Specific events, cases or happenings
- Use of linguistic clues by the author: words such as ‘for example’, ‘for instance’, ‘in the case of’, ‘such as’, ‘like’, ‘to quote a case in point’, ‘be it X or Y’, and similar phrases to indicate the cases or events being examples.
- Substitution tests can be performed: if an idea is meant as an example, it can be easily substituted with another one.

## How to paraphrase examples?

Do not simply dismiss examples when you see them. Read carefully and see if there are any additional or underlying points which you have not paraphrased previously. If so, you will have to extract the main point and rephrase it in your own words.

### Example (Original Text)

Honour killings of women in several rural parts of Pakistan  
Female genital mutilation in certain African countries  
Child brides in several parts of the world

The above are specific practices carried out in certain countries. Honour killing is practised not only in Pakistan but also in other societies. Pakistan is only an example as it can be substituted with another country, so the main point can be paraphrased as: *Women are subject(ed) to various forms of oppressive/discriminatory treatment in different regions of the world.*

You can omit an example if the main point has been stated right before it or in the earlier part of the paragraph, and if you have already paraphrased the main point.

### Original Text

When we partake directly in music, be it singing or producing and writing music, it keeps our minds active. When composing a piece of music, we need to think of an appropriate theme, plan the tune, select the lyrics and put all the various elements together into a cogent piece.

### Paraphrased Version

One benefit is that when we play an active role in music (not as mere listeners), it helps to work our minds.

Here, you can omit the second sentence about writing music. It only serves as an example, with all the descriptions and details of how music composition helps to keep our

minds active. Also, omit ‘singing or producing and writing’ as these are examples of direct participation in music (see the linguistic clue and use of words such as ‘be it’). Thus, you only need to paraphrase the main point about the benefit.

You can also omit the words or phrases that show examples but paraphrase the rest of the sentence, which conveys the main idea.

**When does an example carry an underlying main point, or when does an example cease to become an example but a point or reason itself?**

- When the example is repeated, especially within a paragraph or throughout the text, so frequently that it ceases to be merely an example but becomes the context or reason itself; for example, if the author keeps mentioning the actions of a particular country, then he is probably saying that the country is the cause or reason for something, or that the country is basically used as the context of the whole passage.
- When the paragraph is example-driven or full of examples, it can be an indication that there may be an underlying point. The main point is usually expressed in the topic sentence or first few sentences of the paragraph if the author follows a typical PEER or PEEL structure.
- When the example adds value or additional information to the main point, which differs from the topic sentence;

Original Text	Paraphrased Version
Large companies do not use child labour but their suppliers that are labour-intensive may be less likely to comply. For example, company X lowers the prices of goods so much so that Y cannot afford adult labour.	Huge firms may not employ minors but their vendors / production lines / out-sourced backward linkages do, as the former refuses to pay high prices for the products supplied, such that the latter are compelled to lower their production cost / cost of production / to maintain their profitability by employing children (viewed as cheap labour).

In this example, another cause of child labour, or the cause underlying another cause, is because large companies lower the prices of goods so much so that their suppliers are compelled to lower the cost of production by, in this case, resorting to child labour. Thus, the example of company X adds value to the main point and is also a cause of child labour, which must be paraphrased. Although you may strongly object to the use of child labour – as it is exploitative and unethical or immoral – you must not comment on it. When paraphrasing, you are only showing how well you understand or comprehend the author’s message, not your opinions and reactions to the issues.