
*Paraphrasing Metaphorical
& Figurative Expressions*

- First, recognise the types of metaphors or figurative language used. If possible, look up the phrases in the dictionary to understand the literal meaning of the metaphors and what they symbolise or represent.
- Paraphrase the expressions based on the context (of the passage). Make sure that the similarities between the (literal use of the) metaphors and the context are shown, for example, by using words such as ‘(just) as’, ‘(just) like’, ‘as if’ or ‘as in’.
- Alternatively, rephrase the literal meaning of each metaphor separately. Then paraphrase the expressions in relation to the context. Both the literal and contextual meaning must demonstrate some similarities.

Original Text

The earth’s inhabitants far and wide have been rapidly and more intricately knitted together by technology.

Paraphrased Version

Technology has made transportation/travel and communication easier / has brought people closer together.

Geographical boundaries no longer matter thanks to the annihilation of distance by technology / as technology has annihilated the distance.

No longer are we strangers to one other in our local ways of life established before the annihilation of distance.

We have won the war against SARS.

The SARS pandemic is over and society has been cleared of the virus // we humans have gotten rid of / eradicated/ eliminated/ stamped/wiped out the virus // the SARS virus is no longer a threat, just like winning a war against the enemies where they have been defeated / have retreated.
