Exercise walk-through

2.5
Living Things

GAC Academic English

Method — Key knowledge: a borrowed idea needs credit even when the wording changes

Plagiarism means presenting another person's words or ideas as your own. A **paraphrase** restates an idea in your own wording and sentence structure, with a **citation** identifying its source. Replacing a few words or translating a passage does not make the idea yours.

Use quotation marks for exact words and credit the source. Keep source details while taking notes so you can create a reference entry later. Follow your teaching centre's required referencing style and collaboration rules; this sheet's short author-year format is a local practice convention, not an official GAC requirement.

Method — Source A: text or task brief

Supplied fictional source, written for this exercise: Lin, M. (2026). Seedling observation notebook. Classroom practice note, page 2. “During our seven-day observation, seedlings in the shaded tray grew more slowly than those beside the window. We did not measure temperature or control every condition, so the difference does not show that shade alone caused the slower growth.”

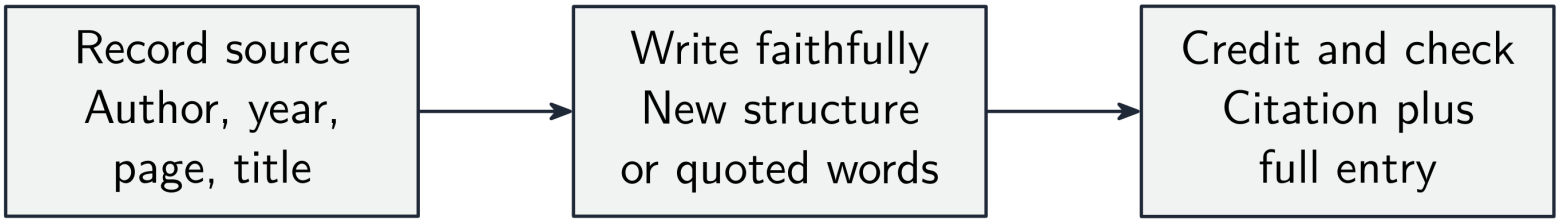
Local task instructions: Write a paragraph using this note. Credit borrowed ideas with (Lin, 2026, p. 2), and provide the supplied full source entry. Exact borrowed wording must be placed in quotation marks. Do not claim that this fictional note is a published scientific study.

Method — Source B: response or review record

Draft A: “In our seven-day observation, plants in the shaded tray developed more slowly than those by the window.” No citation follows.
Draft B: “Lin proves that shade always prevents plant growth (Lin, 2026, p. 2).”
Draft C: “The notebook reports slower growth in one shaded tray than in the window tray, while acknowledging uncontrolled conditions (Lin, 2026, p. 2).” The writer plans to provide the full source entry.
A student proposes translating the original into another language and submitting it without credit because the English words would disappear.

Method — Worked example: credit does not repair a distorted claim

Known: the note describes one seven-day comparison and admits uncontrolled conditions. Why keep that limitation? Otherwise an observation becomes a causal proof the source expressly rejects.
Draft C uses new wording, identifies the source and preserves the evidence limit. Draft B includes a citation but misrepresents the source; accurate attribution and accurate meaning are both required. A quotation may instead use the exact short phrase “We did not measure temperature” (Lin, 2026, p. 2), with quotation marks and the full source entry.



Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 Identify TWO problems with Draft A. [2]

2.2 Explain why Draft B is inaccurate despite its citation. [2]

2.3 Give THREE reasons Draft C is a better use of the source. [3]

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 Identify TWO problems with Draft A. [2]

2.1

Closely follows source wording/structure with small substitutions; omits source credit for borrowed observation.

2.2 Explain why Draft B is inaccurate despite its citation. [2]

2.2

Claims universal prevention/causal proof not reported; ignores uncontrolled conditions and limited comparison.

2.3 Give THREE reasons Draft C is a better use of the source. [3]

2.3

New wording/structure; explicit citation; preserves observation and uncontrolled-condition limit.

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 Explain why uncredited translation remains a problem and state TWO steps that would make source use honest. [3]

3.1 Write one faithful paraphrase, one short exact quotation with credit, and the supplied full reference entry. [6]

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 Explain why uncredited translation remains a problem and state TWO steps that would make source use honest. [3]

2.4

Borrowed idea/words remain another writer's work despite language change; acknowledge source; preserve meaning and identify translated quotation or compose a genuine credited paraphrase as appropriate.

3.1 Write one faithful paraphrase, one short exact quotation with credit, and the supplied full reference entry. [6]

3.1

Paraphrase in new wording/structure preserving observation and uncertainty; citation on paraphrase; exact quotation with quotation marks; citation on quotation; full supplied author/year/title/classroom-note/page entry.

Exercise 3.2

3.2 Write an 80–110 word advisory paragraph explaining how to use this source honestly. Include the source's evidence limit and why citation alone cannot fix distortion. [8]

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3.2

Local analytic rubric, 8 × B1: source-details note-taking advice; genuine paraphrase with changed wording/structure; citation for borrowed idea; quotation marks and credit for exact words; full reference entry; limited observation and uncontrolled-condition explanation; citation/translation do not excuse distortion or missing credit; coherent truthful 80–110 word response. Example: "Keep Lin's source details with your notes before drafting. If you use the seedling observation, write it in your own words and sentence structure, then add the required citation. For exact wording, use quotation marks and credit the source. Include the supplied full reference entry. The note reports a difference during one seven-day observation, but uncontrolled conditions prevent a claim that shade alone caused it (Lin, 2026, p. 2). A citation cannot make an exaggerated claim accurate. Translating the passage also does not remove the need for credit. Check both the meaning and the attribution before submitting your paragraph."