



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

## SUMMARY AND PRECIS WRITING



Precis writing and summarizing are both processes of condensing a longer piece of text into a shorter version, but they have some differences in terms of purpose, length, and approach.

### 1. Purpose

- **Precis Writing:** The primary purpose of precis writing is to capture the essence of the original text while maintaining its core ideas, tone, and style. A precis typically focuses on conveying the author's main points and arguments.
- **Summarizing:** Summarizing also aims to condense the information, but the emphasis is on presenting the main points in a concise form without necessarily preserving the original style or tone.

### 2. Length

- **Precis Writing:** A precis is generally a very condensed version of the original text, often reduced to one-third or one-fourth of the original length. It requires careful selection of words to convey the meaning effectively within a limited word count.
- **Summarizing:** Summaries can vary in length, but they are generally shorter than the original text. The length of a summary depends on the purpose and context, but it is typically more flexible than a precis.

### 3. Detail and Style

- **Precis Writing:** A precis aims to retain the nuances of the original text, including its style, tone, and specific details. It requires the writer to carefully choose words and phrases that capture the essence of the original while maintaining clarity.
- **Summarizing:** Summaries focus on conveying the main ideas and essential information, often omitting specific details, examples, or stylistic elements present in the original text. The emphasis is on brevity and clarity.

### 4. Process

- **Precis Writing:** The process of writing a precis involves a more meticulous approach. It requires careful reading of the original text, understanding its core ideas, and then rephrasing and condensing those ideas while preserving the author's voice.
- **Summarizing:** Summarizing involves identifying the key points and main ideas of the text and presenting them in a condensed form. It may involve omitting less crucial details and restructuring the information for clarity.

### **Example for précis writing**

1) Original Paragraph: The advent of renewable energy technologies marks a crucial shift in the global energy landscape. Solar and wind power, in particular, have gained prominence as sustainable alternatives to traditional fossil fuels. Governments worldwide are increasingly investing in renewable energy infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change. These technologies not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also offer economic benefits through job creation and energy independence. Despite the progress, challenges such as intermittency and storage persist, necessitating ongoing innovation and policy support to fully realize the potential of renewable energy sources.

Precis: The rise of renewable energy technologies signals a pivotal change in the global energy paradigm, with solar and wind power emerging as sustainable alternatives. Governments globally invest in these technologies to address climate change impacts, with benefits including reduced emissions, job creation, and energy independence. Despite advancements, challenges like intermittency and storage persist, requiring continued innovation and policy support for the full realization of renewable energy's potential.

2) Original Paragraph: In the realm of education, the shift towards online learning has become increasingly prevalent, accelerated by technological advancements and the global connectivity afforded by the internet. Virtual classrooms and digital resources offer unprecedented flexibility and accessibility, allowing learners to engage with educational content at their own pace and from diverse geographical locations. However, this transition also raises concerns about the digital divide and the need for equitable access to technology. As education continues to evolve in the digital age, striking a balance between the advantages of online learning and addressing these access disparities remains a paramount challenge.

Precis: The prevalence of online learning in education, driven by technological advancements and global connectivity, provides flexibility and accessibility. Virtual classrooms allow learners to engage with educational content at their own pace and from diverse locations. Despite these advantages, concerns about the digital divide and equitable technology access arise. Balancing the benefits of online learning with addressing access disparities stands as a significant challenge in the evolving landscape of education.