

How to Write an Objective Summary

You need the “Walrus” passage from a couple days ago.

Look at how we created an objective summary of that article.

How to Write An Objective Summary	Example of What It Might Look Like
When you know you’re going to write a summary, follow these steps:	
1) Identify the title of the passage.	<i>“The Walrus”</i>
2) Choose a hot verb from this list: describes, explains, conveys, compares, explores, discusses, lists, states, implies, teaches, illustrates	<i>explains</i>
3) Identify the central idea (main idea) of the passage.	<i>social lives and physical appearances of the walrus</i> (Do you see where I got that? I just looked back at the article and used the exact same words from the two subheadings along with the actual title of the article! What if you have an article without subtitles? That’s ok! Just choose the two most important topics from the body of the article.)
4) Now add one key detail—the most important detail—from each subheading.	social lives: <i>They live together with many other walruses and have their own unique way of communicating with each other</i> (Notice that I used my own words here! I didn’t copy it from the passage!) physical appearances: <i>They have long tusks and whiskers, fat round bodies, and flippers for feet.</i> (Again, notice I didn’t copy anything from the article. I used my own words!)

Here’s my finished summary (and it’s objective!) —

“The Walrus” article explains the social lives and physical appearances of the walrus. For instance, walruses are mammals that live together with many other walruses and have their own unique way of communicating with each other. They have long tusks and whiskers, fat round bodies, and flippers for feet.

How to Write a Subjective Summary

You need the “Walrus” passage from a couple days ago.

Look at how we created a subjective summary of that article.

How to Write A Subjective Summary	Example of What It Might Look Like
When you know you’re going to write a summary like this, follow these steps:	
1) Identify the title of the passage.	<i>“The Walrus”</i>
2) Choose a hot verb from this list: describes, explains, conveys, compares, explores, discusses, lists, states, implies, teaches, illustrates	<i>explains</i>
3) Identify the central idea (main idea) of the passage.	<i>social lives and physical appearances of the walrus</i> (Do you see where I got that? I just looked back at the article and used the exact same words from the two subheadings along with the actual title of the article! What if you have an article without subtitles? That’s ok! Just choose the two most important topics from the body of the article.)
4) Now add one key detail—the most important detail—from each subheading. This time, you can insert words like adjectives and adverbs, rhetorical questions, and punctuation marks like exclamation points to convey your own idea/opinion about what you just read.	social lives: <i>They live in these huge groups with many other walruses and have their own interesting way of communicating with each other</i> (Notice that I used words here that show my personal feelings about the walrus. The reader can tell I like the article and the topic). physical appearances: <i>They have long tusks and whiskers, fat round bodies, and flippers for feet!</i> (Notice I added an exclamation point at the end to show my excitement about those flipper feet).

Here’s my finished summary (and it’s subjective!) —

“The Walrus” article explains the fascinating social lives and strange physical appearance of the walrus. For instance, walruses are mammals that live together with many other walruses and have their own really special way of communicating with each other. They have huge, long tusks and whiskers, fat round bodies, and flippers for feet!