

EXERCISE 5: PARAPHRASING

Quick Fact Chart	
Overview	Students use the textbook passage, Main Idea Review Passage 3: Adoption (pages 39–40). They also receive a copy of pages 44–45. Students work in small groups to understand and paraphrase content.
Academic Skills	Reading for main ideas Discussing or writing about main ideas Answering multiple-choice questions
TOEFL Skills	Comprehending the passage Choosing the best paraphrase of an original sentence
Time	15–20 minutes
Answer Key	1. b, 2. d, 3. c, 4. a. Answers will vary for items 5 and 6.
Related Pages in Textbook	Identifying Main Ideas and Understanding Content, pages 2–42
Extension Activities	This activity can be repeated with any reading passage. <u>Preparation:</u> The teacher prepares paraphrases for targeted sentences.

Ask students to choose the best paraphrase or to write a paraphrase of each sentence.

1. “In short, adoption is a ubiquitous social institution in American society, creating invisible relationships with biological and adoptive kin that touch far more people than we imagine.” (Paragraph 1)
 - a. In America, more people are adopted than was originally thought.
 - b. Adoption touches a surprising number of people throughout American society.
 - c. Because adoptees are “invisible,” their circumstances are hard to imagine.
 - d. Relationships between biological and adoptive kin have international scope.

2. “While raising a family is inherently stressful, adoption is filled with additional tensions that are unique to the adoptive relationship.” (Paragraph 2)
 - a. Families that adopt children can avoid some of the tensions inherent in biological families.
 - b. Raising a family under stressful conditions can discourage potential adoptive parents.
 - c. The adoptive relationship is inherently stressful.
 - d. Families with an adopted member face more challenges than biological families.

3. “Third, in a nation that sanctifies blood kinship, adoptive families and adoptees are stigmatized because of their lack of biological relationship.” (Paragraph 2)
 - a. Nations that sanctify blood relationships are often stigmatized.
 - b. Adoptive families and adoptees are treated like criminals in nations that over-value blood relationships.
 - c. Where blood kinship is excessively valued, adoption is considered inferior.
 - d. In some nations, adoptees do not have the same legal relationship to their adoptive parents as blood kin have to their birth parents.

4. “Opposing these adoptees, some birth mothers argued that they were promised secrecy when they relinquished their children for adoption and that abrogating that promise constituted an invasion of privacy.” (Paragraph 3)
 - a. Some birth mothers who were promised secrecy about their role felt that breaking that promise was an invasion of their privacy.
 - b. In order to retain their privacy, some birth mothers refused to reveal their identities when they relinquished their children for adoption.
 - c. Some adoptees support their birth mothers’ right to secrecy, even if it was promised to them when they gave their children for adoption.
 - d. Some birth mothers felt that their biological children’s pursuit of their identities should be abandoned based on the possibility that the birth mother requested privacy.

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Paraphrase these sentences.

5. “Second, since World War II, the entire edifice of modern adoption has been enveloped in secrecy.” (Paragraph 2)

6. “As an outgrowth of in vitro fertilization technology, researchers have developed “embryo adoption” where an infertile couple can adopt a donated frozen embryo, bringing into question the very meaning of the institution of adoption.” (Paragraph 4)
