PTE Academic | Exam preparation

EWS-PTE-L4-01 | Guided learning and practice

Summarize Spoken Text: retain argument and support

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Summarize Spoken Text turns an audio passage into a concise written summary. Listen for the topic, central claim and important supporting relationships rather than trying to record every word. Use compact notes that show cause, contrast or sequence. A list of examples can be less useful than one clear note explaining the point the examples support.

After listening, organise the summary in connected sentences within the current task's word range. Keep the source's meaning and degree of certainty. Do not add your own opinion or a memorised introduction that consumes the response. Check whether the summary explains how the main points connect. For instance, a lecture on urban heat might connect tree shade and water release with cooling while noting maintenance needs. Review content first, then word count, grammar and spelling. This task differs from the one-sentence written-text summary, so do not import the wrong form requirement.

Worked examples

Note relationship: shade + water release → cooling; maintenance → survival.

Summary wording: The speaker explains two cooling mechanisms and stresses the need for long-term care.

Try it yourself: language control

1. Choose: A written summary must follow the task's (form requirements / memorised topic).
2. Correct: The university require students to bring identification.
3. Choose: The response should describe what the figure (shows / might secretly mean).
4. Choose: Missing a negative word can (reverse / repeat) the meaning.
5. Combine in one sentence: The team supports a trial. It has not approved permanent funding.

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Highlight Correct Summary: compare whole meanings

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Highlight Correct Summary requires choosing the written summary that best represents the audio. Read each option as a complete account. The wrong summary may contain accurate details but distort the main claim, omit a key limitation or reverse cause and effect. A strong choice captures the central argument and its important support without adding unsupported conclusions.

Listen with a compact note of topic, main point and major relationship. After the recording, compare this note with the alternatives. Do not choose from the first sentence of an option alone. An apparently accurate opening can be followed by an invented claim. During review, mark which part of each distractor fails. If the speaker says a solution is promising but requires more evidence, a summary calling it proven is too strong. This task rewards integrated understanding, so phrase-level keyword matching is an unreliable shortcut.

Worked examples

Source meaning: A promising approach needs further testing.

Distorted summary: The approach has been conclusively proven to work everywhere.

A campus repair programme

Students proposed a repair programme for small non-electrical items. The plan included a weekly supervised session, a booking form and a record of replacement parts. A tutor supported the learning opportunity but warned that some damaged items would be unsuitable for repair. Another participant suggested accepting only a limited range during the first month. The team agreed to label the service as a trial and collect feedback before expanding it. They did not promise to repair every item or provide a same-day return. Owners would receive an estimate before any chargeable materials were used.

Find evidence in the text

1. What kind of items is the programme intended to handle?
2. What record would be kept?
3. What did the tutor caution?
4. Was same-day return promised?
5. When should owners receive an estimate?

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Write from Dictation: hear, hold and reconstruct

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Write from Dictation requires writing the sentence you hear accurately. Listen for meaningful chunks and preserve the original wording. Identify the main clause, then retain modifiers, articles and endings. Grammar can help reconstruct a weakly heard portion, but it should not become a reason to replace the actual sentence with a different plausible one.

Use notes that retain word order and key forms. After typing, check for omitted articles, plural nouns, verb endings and spelling. Read the sentence silently to test whether the structure is complete, then compare it with what you remember hearing. In practice review, separate perception errors from spelling errors and memory losses. Repeat the corrected sentence aloud and type it once more without looking. This connects listening, memory and written accuracy. A short task should still receive a careful final check; small grammatical words can carry credit and meaning.

Worked examples

Heard sentence: The final report will be available next week.

Check small words: the, will and be are part of the sentence, not optional decoration.

Apply the skill

1. Summarize Written Text: Summarise the repair-programme passage in one sentence of 5-75 words.

2. Respond to the repair-booking situation using ten seconds to prepare and forty seconds to speak.

3. Essay practice: Some colleges assess students mainly through examinations, while others use projects and practical tasks. Discuss the advantages of both and give your opinion. Write 200-300 words.

Use separate paper or a device recording for longer responses. Keep your attempt for feedback. This is EWS skill practice, not an official score.

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