

# Summarizing

## Practice 1

# How To **Summarize**

1. **Read** the text.
2. Don't let big words scare you.
3. Ask, “**What was this text about?**”

## **Your Answer...**

- **Should** be a complete sentence or two
- **Should** cover **main point** and **key ideas**
- **Should** be in your own words
- **Shouldn't** just be a word or two

# Directions

1. Get out a **separate** sheet of paper.
2. We will read each passage.
3. You will write a summary on your paper.
4. We will share and discuss.
5. You will turn in your assignment.

# 1

When one hears the term “reality” applied to a television show, one might expect that the events occurred naturally or, at the least, were not scripted, but this is not always the case. Many reality shows occur in unreal environments, like rented mansions occupied by film crews. These living environments do not reflect what most people understand to be “reality.” Worse, there have been accusations that events not captured on film were later restaged by producers. Worse still, some involved in the production of “reality” television claim that the participants were urged to act out story lines premeditated by producers. With such accusations floating around, it’s no wonder many people take reality TV to be about as real as the sitcom.

# 2

There are many types of lethal venom in the animal kingdom, but perhaps no stranger carrier than the platypus. The platypus is one of few venomous mammals. Males carry a venom cocktail in their ankle spurs that paralyzes victims with excruciating pain. Stranger still, the platypus is the only mammal that uses electroreception. What this means is that the platypus uses its bill to sense the electricity produced by the muscular movements of its prey. The platypus neither sees, hears, nor smells its prey while hunting but, rather, pursues it through electroreception. Perhaps most odd, the platypus is the only mammal that lays eggs rather than giving birth to live young. The platypus is an odd creature indeed.

# 3

Yellowstone National Park is mainly located in Wyoming, although three percent is located in the state of Montana. The Continental Divide of North America runs diagonally through the southwestern part of the park. The park sits on the Yellowstone Plateau, which is an average elevation of 8,000 feet above sea level. This plateau is bounded on nearly all sides by mountain ranges. There are 290 waterfalls that are at least fifteen feet in the park, the highest being the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, which falls 308 feet.

# 4

Screech! When a driver pushes on the brake pedal, it starts a process that causes the vehicle to stop. You literally trust braking systems with your life every time you get into a vehicle or cross a busy intersection, but how does this process work? It begins when the pedal is pushed. At this moment brake fluid is released into the area where the braking mechanisms are located. As the fluid collects, leverage is created, which causes a friction to be applied. If the braking system is functioning properly, this friction will create a force that will cause the wheels to stop and allow you to reach your destination safely.

## Example **Answers**

1. Reality TV shows are not very realistic because they are filmed in unrealistic places, may contain restaged events, and may be scripted.
2. The platypus is a strange mammal because it has venom, uses its beak to sense prey, and lays eggs.
3. Yellowstone Park, in Wyoming, is on a large plateau & has a bunch of waterfalls.
4. When you step on the brakes, fluid is stored in a chamber that allows the car to stop.