

Summarizing What Was Read or Presented

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

A SUMMARY of something you heard or read tells the MAIN POINTS in your OWN WORDS, in a few sentences. A summary is shorter than the original and stays NEUTRAL - it does NOT add the listener's opinion or feelings. A response that says 'I really liked it' is an OPINION, not a summary.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Class presentation - Maya on the African elephant

Today I'm going to tell you three things about the African elephant. First, the African elephant is the largest land animal on Earth. Adult males can weigh more than 13,000 pounds and stand about 10 feet tall at the shoulder. Second, African elephants live in family groups called herds, usually led by the oldest female. The leader is called the matriarch, and she remembers where to find water and food during dry seasons.

Third, African elephants are in trouble. Their numbers have dropped by more than half in the last 50 years because of two main problems: people clearing land where elephants live, and illegal hunting for ivory. Some countries have set up large protected parks where elephants can live more safely, but the work is not done. If we want African elephants to be around for our grandchildren, we have to keep protecting their habitats.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Read the short presentation transcript below and answer the items.

- Which is the BEST one-sentence SUMMARY of Maya's whole presentation?
 - Maya talked about how cool elephants are because she likes them.
 - African elephants are Earth's largest land animals, live in family herds led by an older female, and are at risk because of habitat loss and illegal hunting.
 - African elephants weigh up to 13,000 pounds.
 - Some countries have set up protected parks for elephants.



2. Which response is a SUMMARY (not an OPINION)?
 - A. Maya gave a good speech because elephants are super cool.
 - B. I think Maya should have used more pictures.
 - C. I felt sad when Maya talked about hunting.
 - D. Maya explained that African elephants are the world's largest land animal, live in matriarch-led herds, and are losing habitat to people and poachers.
3. Which sentence is an OPINION ABOUT the presentation, NOT a summary OF it?
 - A. I really liked Maya's presentation - it was the best one this week.
 - B. Maya said African elephant numbers have dropped by more than half in 50 years.
 - C. Maya said the matriarch is the oldest female and leads the herd.
 - D. Maya described two main threats: habitat loss and illegal hunting.
4. Maya named THREE main points. Which list captures them?
 - A. Elephants live in Africa; elephants like water; people like elephants.
 - B. Elephants are big; elephants are old; elephants are sad.
 - C. Largest land animal; family herds led by a matriarch; population has dropped because of habitat loss and ivory hunting.
 - D. Elephants weigh 13,000 pounds; elephants are 10 feet tall; elephants live in groups.
5. Which is a STRONG summary of just paragraph 2?
 - A. African elephants are huge.
 - B. African elephant populations have fallen by more than half in 50 years because of habitat loss and ivory hunting, and some countries have responded by creating protected parks.
 - C. Maya's speech got me thinking about animals.
 - D. Elephants live in family herds led by an older female.
6. Which response BEST shows that the listener UNDERSTOOD Maya's main idea?
 - A. I don't really care about elephants, sorry.
 - B. Maya talked about Africa, which is a continent.
 - C. I think Maya should make her next speech about lions.
 - D. Maya's main idea is that African elephants are amazing animals that need our help, especially through habitat protection.
7. Maya's classmate writes: *Maya said the matriarch is the smartest animal on Earth.* Why is this a BAD summary line?
 - A. It distorts what Maya said - Maya said the matriarch REMEMBERS where to find water and food, not that she is the smartest animal on Earth.
 - B. It is too short.
 - C. It is a personal opinion.
 - D. It uses the word matriarch.



8. Which combination of features BEST describes a strong oral summary?

- A. Long, full of opinions, includes every example.
- B. Word-for-word repetition of the speaker.
- C. Short, in your own words, neutral, captures the main points.
- D. Only the parts the listener agreed with.

9. Write a 1-2 sentence SUMMARY of Maya's presentation in your own words. Stay NEUTRAL - no opinions.

10. Now write ONE sentence that is an OPINION about Maya's presentation. (Practice telling the two apart.)



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

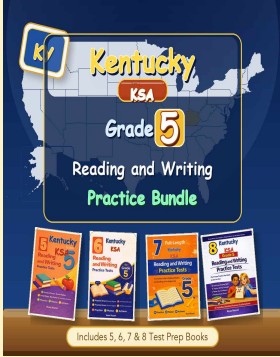
- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9
- 10

Explanations

1. B	B captures all THREE main points (largest land animal, family herds led by an older female, threats from habitat loss and ivory hunting). A is opinion about Maya. C and D each grab only one detail.
2. D	D neutrally restates Maya's main points - the job of a summary. A is opinion. B is feedback. C is a personal feeling, not a summary.
3. A	A uses judgment words (really liked, the best) and rates the presentation rather than restating its content. C, B, and D all neutrally report what Maya said.
4. C	C names the THREE main ideas Maya organized her speech around. B is vague and partly wrong. A is loose paraphrase missing the actual points. D lists three details all from the FIRST point only.
5. B	B captures paragraph 2's MAIN points (cause of decline + response with parks). A is from paragraph 1. C is a personal reaction. D is from paragraph 1, not paragraph 2.
6. D	D captures the central message Maya built across both paragraphs. A is a dismissal. B is a fact about Africa, not Maya's main idea. C is unrelated feedback.
7. A	Faithful summaries don't add claims the speaker didn't make. Maya described the matriarch's role; she did NOT call her the smartest animal on Earth. C is wrong (the line presents itself as fact). B is irrelevant. D is wrong (matriarch is exactly Maya's word).
8. C	C names the four core features of a strong summary. A is too long and not neutral. B is recitation, not summary. D is selective and biased.
9.	Answer: Examples: (1) Maya explained that African elephants are the world's largest land animal and live in family herds led by an older female called the matriarch. She added that their numbers have dropped sharply in the last 50 years because of habitat loss and ivory hunting, and that protected parks are one part of the response. (2) According to Maya, African elephants live in matriarch-led herds and are the largest land animals on Earth, but their populations are at risk from people clearing land and from illegal hunting. Accept any 1-2 sentence summary that (a) captures the MAIN points (size/largest land animal, matriarch-led herds, decline + causes) in the student's own words and (b) does NOT include personal opinions or feelings about Maya or the speech. NOT acceptable: a summary that adds opinion (I loved it), copies Maya word for word, or grabs only one detail.
10.	Answer: Examples: (1) I think Maya's presentation was strong because she gave clear numbers for each point. (2) Maya should have shown a photo of an African elephant herd to make the matriarch idea easier to picture. (3) The most powerful part of the speech was the line about protecting habitat for our grandchildren. Accept any single sentence that gives a personal JUDGMENT, EVALUATION, OR PREFERENCE about the presentation. NOT acceptable: a sentence that simply restates what Maya said (that would be a summary, not an opinion).



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