



CLASS X
ADDITIONAL ENGLISH
SECTION C - WRITING SKILLS
LESSON 6
WRITING SUMMARIES/PRECIS

NOTES

Precis is a short summary of a paragraph. It is to make the reader understand the main essence of the paragraph in a shorter format. For writing a precis, you need to follow a particular set of rules:-

- Read the passage or article carefully and mark the main ideas.
- Bring out the main/central idea which the author is trying to reflect.
- Try to write the theory given by the author in your own words. You cannot insert your own remarks and criticism in a precis.
- First make a draft, then fair copy it.
- Precis should be limited to about one third of the size of the given passage.
- It must have a logical order and be well-knit and well connected.
- Suggest a suitable title to the precis written, particularly if asked to do so.
- One cannot insert a question. If for any reason you need to insert, make it in the form of a statement.



Some model examples of precis writing

1. Once a certain soldier was taken prisoner of war. He was confined within the four walls of the prison cell. He missed the cheerfulness of a free life. The iron bars almost entered into his soul. He could not accustom himself to the rigours of a captive life. He pined away in sorrow. At last, the long awaited release from the long term bondage came and he was released duly. His joy was illimitable. The wide open sky, the men around him gave him an immense pleasure. Brimming all the time with the joys of a free life, he was returning home with all the possible speed. On his way home, he saw a bird seller, with a few cages of birds around him. The painful condition of the birds reminded of his bitter experiences of the jail life. The sailor bought all the birds and to the great amazement of the bird seller, he set them free. The birds flew away in the sky flapping their wings.

Title: Only the sufferer knows the pain of suffering

Once after the long and painful confinement as the prisoner of war, a certain soldier was returning home. On his way home he saw a bird seller with some birds kept in cages. The painful condition of the birds reminded him of his own suffering in the prison. He purchased all the birds and set them free.

2. All through history there have been wars, yet mankind has survived, developed and become civilized in spite of them. But unfortunately, as part of the development, man has learned to tap the hidden forces of our planet and use them for his purposes. Now, if his purposes are those of destruction each fresh and advance in his mastery of nature only increases the danger from war, as men learn to destroy one another in even greater numbers, from ever greater distances, and even more varied and ingenious ways. Man has now discovered how to release the forces locked up in the atom. In consequence, the leading nations of the world are now making atom bombs which would almost certainly be widely used. Nobody knows what the effect of dropping such bombs on large scale would be, but it is quite possible that the total destruction of the world and its civilisation might ensue. As somebody has jokingly remarked, in the next war, man will fight with atom bombs and in the war after that with arrows and bows.



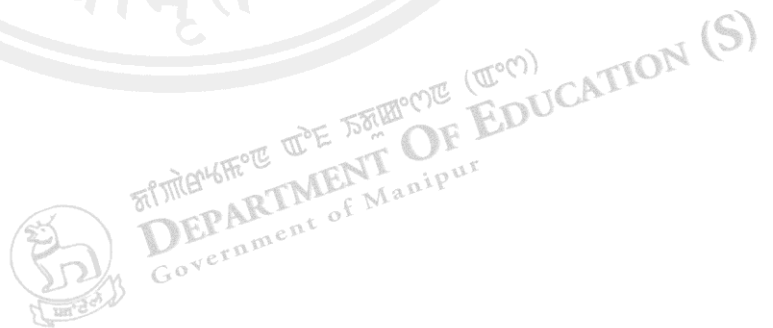
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Title: The Danger of Nuclear War

In the course of development of civilisation throughout the ages, man has learnt to survive through wars. But with the conquest of the hidden forces of nature and the discovery of atom bombs by man, future war will be nuclear wars, totally different from the conventional wars of the past. It will be possibly total destruction of the human civilisation and mankind has to begin again with bows and arrows from the primitive stage.



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