

Summarize It

Cory and Troy love to play basketball. One day when Troy was at Cory's house, they decided to go play some basketball at the park across the street. When they told Cory's mom their plans, she said, "Ok, have fun, but make sure you're back in time for dinner."

"What time is dinner?" asked Cory.

"Five o'clock," she replied.

Cory looked at his watch. It was 4:00pm.

"Ok, we'll be back at five!" Cory replied, as he and Troy darted out the door.

"Don't be late!" they heard Cory's mom yell as they started to cross the street.

Cory and Troy played for a while, and they noticed the sun was starting to go down.

"Do you think we should head back now?" asked Cory.

"One more game!" cried Troy.

"Ok!" Cory said, clearly not needing much convincing.

When their game was over, Cory looked at his watch. It was six o'clock!

"Oh no! We're late!" Cory exclaimed, and boys both started running back to the house.

When they opened the door, they saw pizza boxes on the table. They ran over to the pizza boxes and opened them, but they were empty! Cory's mom had ordered pizza, and Cory's brothers had already eaten it all!

Cory's mom looked at the two boys who were over an hour late, and said, "Don't worry boys, I think I have some cans of sardines."

So now that you've heard this story, here's what I want you to do:

Summarize it

Put in your own words and down-size it

You should include the most important information, no opinion or inflation

You can paraphrase but don't plagiarize it

Just summarize it

Summarize it

So to summarize this story, we need to make it shorter. We'll need to take the 20 sentences in this story, and turn them into, let's say, three. Let's divide this story up into sections. What if we could take all the sentences in this first section and turn them into just one? There's a lot of specific information in here, like what particular words were said, some

exact times, where the park is located, etc. But these are details, and we only need the main idea. So here's a sentence that tells you what happened in this section, without all the extra details:

Cory and Troy went to play basketball and promised Cory's mom they'd be back in time for dinner.

Let's look at the next section. Again, we see a lot of specific words that were spoken, a specific time, how they knew it was getting late, etc. But we don't need all that to get the point across. Here's a sentence that covers what happened in this section without the specifics:

They lost track of time and were over an hour late getting home.

Now we just have one section left. This section tells you how the boys knew there had been pizza, what actions they took to discover the pizza was all gone, the specific words Cory's mom said, and various other details. But we need to get straight to the point:

Because they were so late, there was no pizza left when they got home, so Cory's mom offered them canned sardines.

And just like that, we've taken a 20-sentence story, and turned it into a nice 3-sentence summary:

Cory and Troy went to play basketball and promised Cory's mom they'd be back in time for dinner. They lost track of time and were over an hour late getting home. Because they were so late, there was no pizza left when they got home, so Cory's mom offered them canned sardines.

See how that gets the point across without all the extra details? Well, that is how you...

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