

How to summarize a paragraph with **key supporting details**



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LIFE ▪ ANECDOTE

Marriage Badly Needed

I'm a nice guy. First, with good sense of humor, I enjoy watching comedy shows and bringing laughter to people around. From five years ago, every Sunday afternoon, I always drive to the city theater to appreciate different comedies, and my friends always say staying with me help them laugh off worries. Besides, outgoing and humorous, I make friends everywhere: in bars, workplace, even cinemas, any place you name. Most importantly, I hold a genuine heart and devote myself to volunteering. Starting from 2010, I have volunteered in 5 continents and over 20 countries, working in non-profit organizations to help people in need. So I would like to meet a like-minded, good-natured girl to share my quality time.



Nice male. Would like to meet a like-minded, good-natured girl to share quality times. (A)

Too general

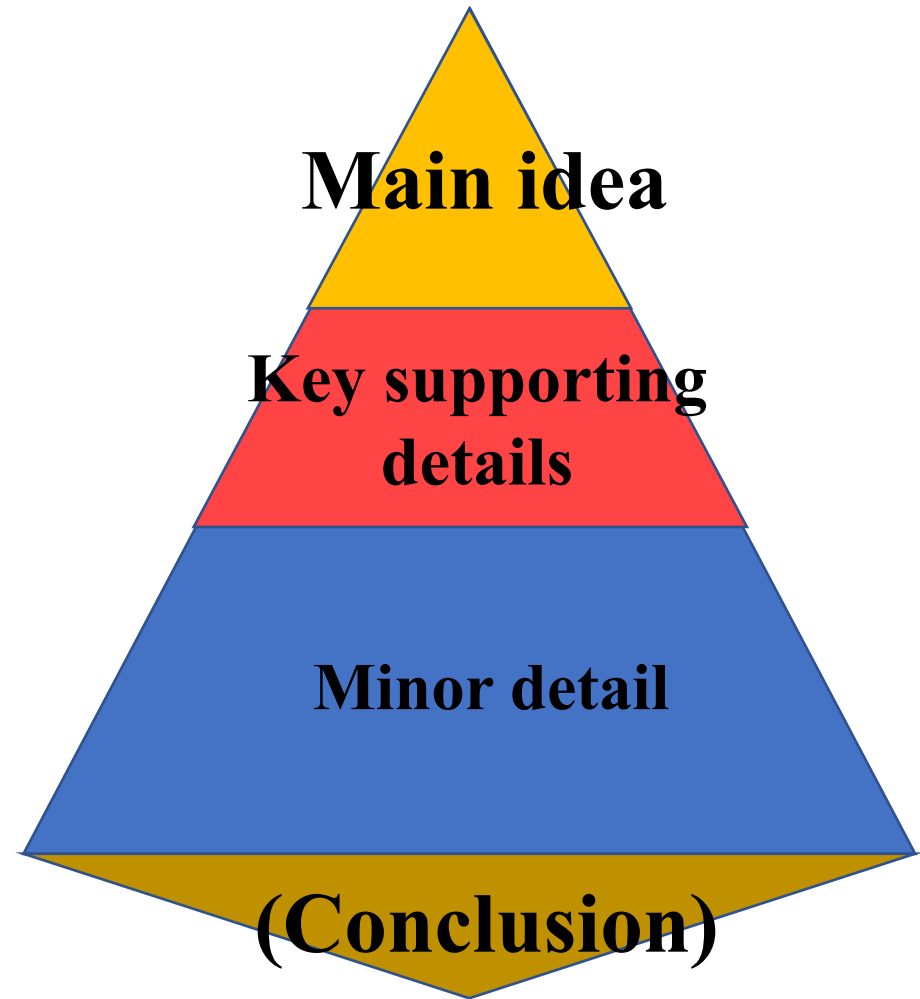
Nice male, good sense of humor, into volunteering, socializing, comedy shows. Would like to meet a like-minded, good-natured girl to share quality times. (B)





Definitions of a summary

A summary is a brief review of a piece of written material. It should include only **main ideas** and **key supporting details**. It should NOT include **minor details** or any personal opinions. (Herzfeld-Pinpin 2007)





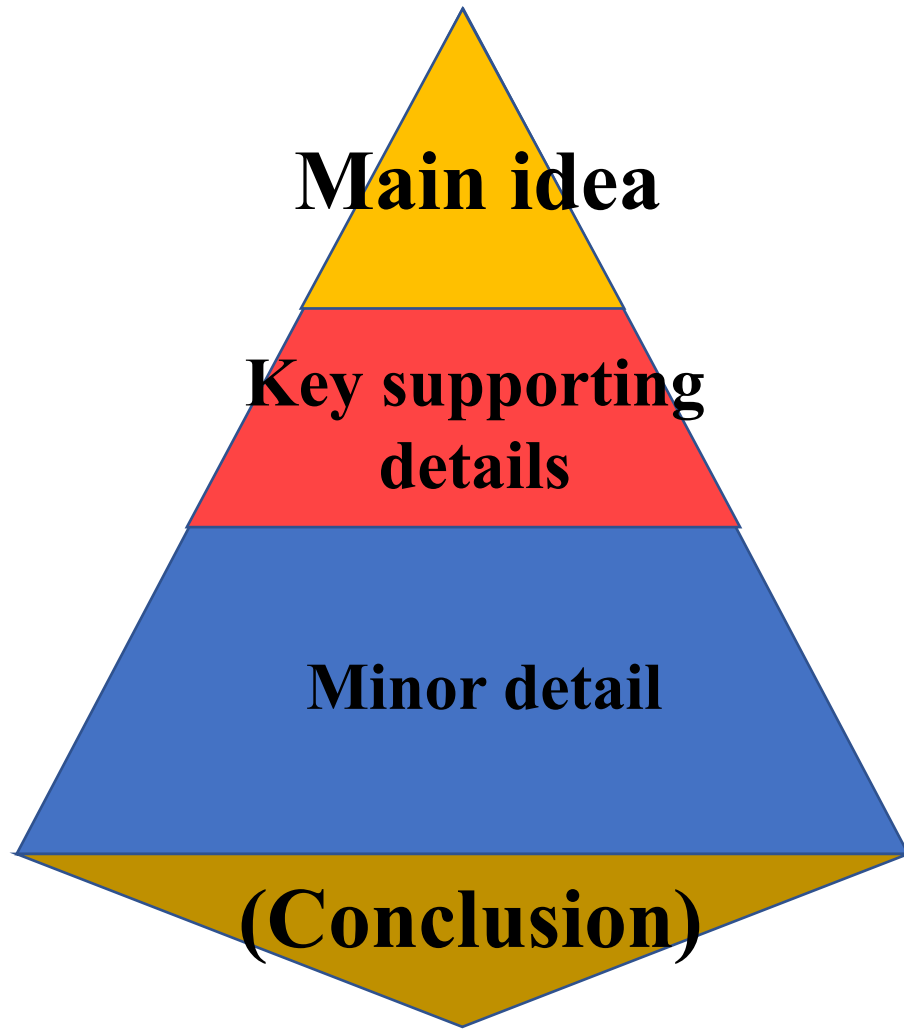
Find the main idea, key supporting details, and minor details.

①Lack of water may result in several problems. ②It may increase health problems. ③Lack of water often means drinking waters are not safe. ④Lack of water may also result in more international conflict. ⑤Countries may have to compete for water in the future. ⑥Some countries now get sixty percent of their fresh water from other countries. ⑦And lack of water would affect the ability of developing to improve their economies. ⑧This is because new industries often need a large amount of water when they are beginning.

→ **Main idea**

→ **Key supporting details**

→ **Minor details**



most important and general point



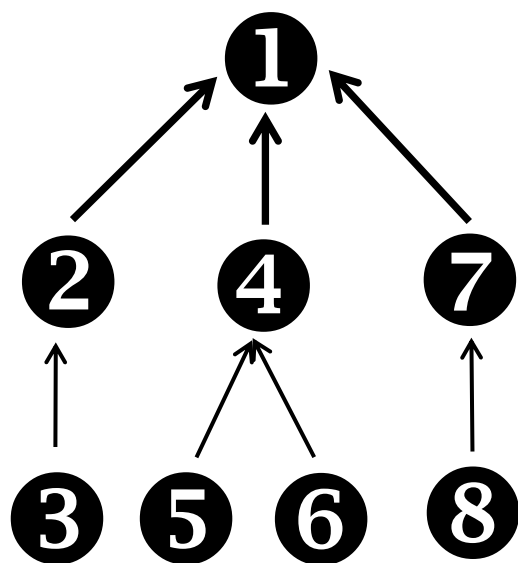
to explain and develop the **main idea**



to help support and make clear the
key supporting details



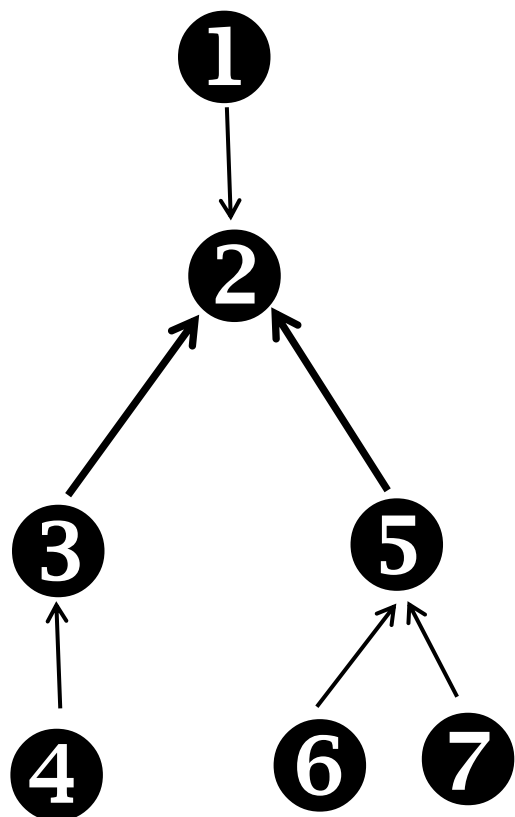
Tree map of the paragraph



① Lack of water may result in several problems. ② It may increase health problems. ③ Lack of water often means drinking waters are not safe. ④ Lack of water may also result in more international conflict. ⑤ Countries may have to compete for water in the future. ⑥ Some countries now get sixty percent of their fresh water from other countries. ⑦ And lack of water would affect the ability of developing to improve their economies. ⑧ This is because new industries often need a large amount of water when they are beginning.



Draw a tree map of the paragraph



①The test grades may be a stepping stone to prestigious universities. ②However, these tests don't necessarily ensure one's future success in life. ③To become better test-takers than others, some students would like to have more preparations. ④Several AST and ACT pre-classes are offered by various companies and individual tutors, giving rich students a better chance to improve their scores. ⑤Cheating also happens among test-takers. ⑥Some students even take medicine before their tests. ⑦Although it's not proved that taking these drugs will increase a student's score, the nature of the drug is to increase alertness, concentration, and mental processing speed.



Comparison

Lack of water
contributes to
several problems,
giving rise to health problems,
triggering more international conflict,
and hindering economic growth. (A)

Lacking water contributes to several problems, giving rise to health problems, triggering more international conflict, and hindering economic growth. (A)

Lacking water contributes to several problems,

development
(B)



Write a summary of the paragraph



①The test grades may be a stepping stone to prestigious universities. ②However, these tests don't necessarily ensure one's future success in life. ③To become better test-takers than others, some students would like to have more preparations. ④Several AST and ACT pre-classes are offered by various companies and individual tutors, giving rich students a better chance to improve their scores. ⑤Cheating also happens among test-takers. ⑥Some students even take medicine before their tests. ⑦Although it's not proved that taking these drugs will increase a student's score, the nature of the drug is to increase alertness, concentration, and mental processing speed.



Adverbial clause

1. These tests do not promise future success **because/as** some students have extra preparation/tutoring, cheat and even take medicine for tests.

Attributive clause

2. These tests, **in which** students could get better scores by attending extra classes, cheating, or taking medicine, can not guarantee future success.





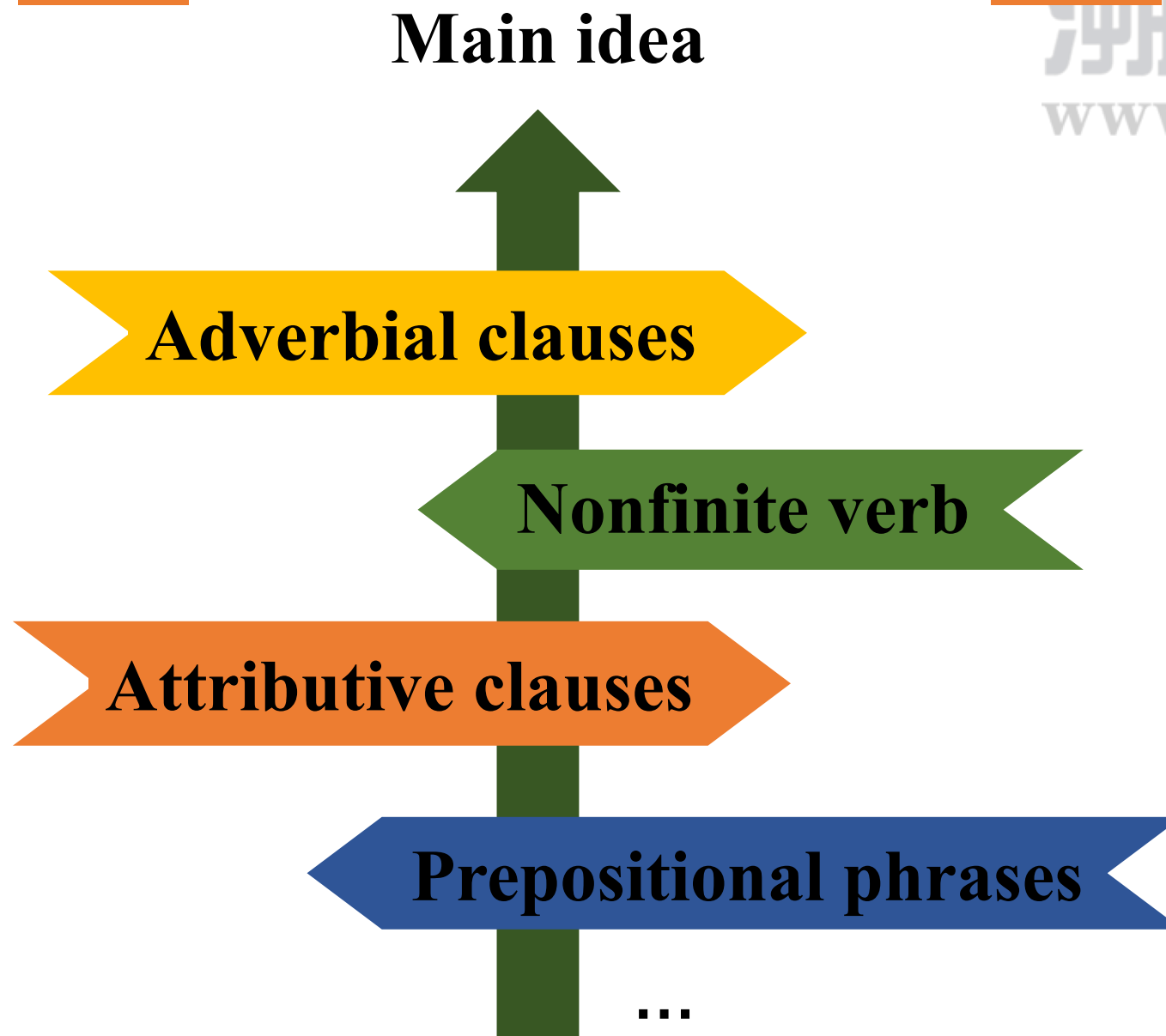
Nonfinite verb

3. Students **making extra preparations, cheating** and even **taking medicine before tests**, these tests fail to promise one's success in the future.

Prepositional phrases

4. These tests do not guarantee students' future success **due to/because of** their extra preparations, cheating, and medicine taking.



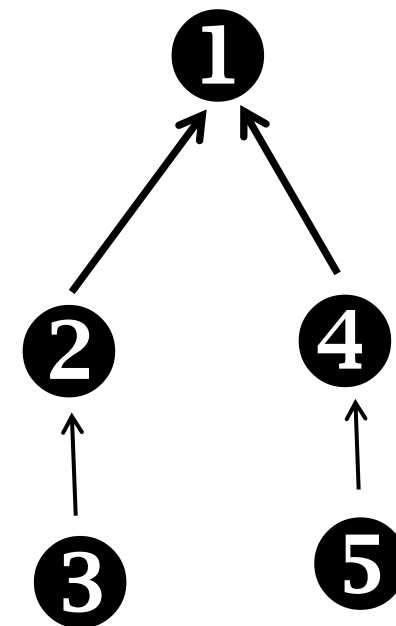




Inheriting from parents and suffering from mild brain damage during birth, people are likely to become lefties.

People are likely to become left-handed **because of** inheritance and mild brain damage during birth.

Some claim left-handedness is genetic **while** others attribute it to mild brain injury during birth.





Thank you!