Paraphrasing: Putting Information in Your Own Words

What is paraphrasing?
Paraphrasing occurs when you reiterate information from a source in your own words. Typically, it’s recommended you not only change the words used in the source but you also change its sentence structures. Ensure you retain the original source’s information when you paraphrase.

Note: A thorough understanding of a source is necessary when paraphrasing.

Do I need to cite paraphrased information?
Yes, you must always cite information and ideas that are not your own—including information you’ve paraphrased! Even though the phrasing is your own, the ideas are not, so credit must be given to the original author.
Paraphrased information, like quotations, must have in-text citations and be included on the references list at the end of your assignment.

Where do I insert in-text citations for paraphrased information?
Insert an in-text citation when you have reached the end of your paraphrased information, regardless of its length. Place it before punctuation marks, such as commas or periods.

Example:
In the following example, information from two different sources has been paraphrased:

According to some reports, Montreal could receive up to 70mm of rain this week, as well as strong winds travelling at a rate of over 50 kilometers per hour (CTV News: Montreal, 2017, para. 1). While some say Montreal may only receive approximately 60mm of rain (Montreal Gazette, 2017, para. 2), the general consensus is that Montreal has some rainy days ahead of it (CTV News: Montreal, 2017, para. 1).

A few things to note:
• Punctuation comes after in-text citations
• In-text citations can be placed in the middle of sentences
• In-text citations are only changed when the source from which information came from is also changed

Try this exercise:
In the lines provided below, paraphrase this except from The Guardian’s article, “Mystery of octopuses found crawling along Welsh beach:"

Dozens of octopus have been spotted emerging from the ocean and crawling along the Welsh coast in a nightly pilgrimage that has perplexed people at a seaside town.
Up to 25 curled octopuses, which grow to a length of 50cm, were seen three nights in a row at New Quay beach in Ceredigion in west Wales. Some of the wayward cephalopods were later found dead, washed up on the beach.

Brett Jones, who runs SeaMôr dolphin-watching boat trips, said he first witnessed the phenomenon when he was returning from a sunset trip.

“It was a bit like an End Of Days scenario,” he told the BBC. “There were probably about 20 or 25 on the beach. I have never seen them out of the water like that.”

He said it was “really rare” for the creatures to end up on dry land, adding: “Maybe they are getting confused by the bright lights in New Quay harbour and maybe they are dying off after summer or getting knackered after the recent storms.” (The Guardian, 2017, para. 1-5)
References

