

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

Making notes is a skilled task, develops over years, and everyone has their own variant! The exercises in this unit are a brief intro. The best way to learn this skill, however, is to do it; every page you study should be read with a pencil and notebook by your side. PS research has shown the hand-WRITING the notes 'fixes' the information in your brain better than typing or highlighting.

The Berlin Blockade

8. Making Notes II – Abbreviations

On the right, you can see a list of common historian's abbreviations. As time goes on, you will change some and add your own, but go with these for the moment.

The pdf notes on the webpage on The pdf notes on the webpage on the Berlin Blockade use many of these abbreviations.

- Go through the pdf notes, identifying all the occasions they have used an abbreviation from the list. See how the notes have used it, comparing the notes to the full-out text on the webpage. Notice how the notes also miss out unnecessary words (eg in para 1, "what should be done about" becomes "re").
- Re-write the following paragraphs in note form, making as much use as possible of the abbreviations on the right:

"There had been particular disagreement about reparations: Britain and America had wanted Germany to recover economically, but the Russians had gained the right to take 10% of the industrial equipment of western Germany, and as whatever they wanted from their own zone in eastern Germany:"

"On 1 June, America and France announced that they wanted to create the new country of West Germany; and on 23 June they introduced a new currency into 'Bizonia' and western Berlin. The next day (24 June 1948) the Russians stopped all road and rail traffic into Berlin."

Possible solutions at bottom of page.

- Practise making abbreviated notes on relevant passages in your textbook.
- Start making use of the abbreviations in your own note-taking.

eg	for example
ie	that is
esp.	especially
w.	with
w/o	without
vs	versus/ against
etc	and more
et al	and others
re	regarding/about
m	million (or miles)
bn	billion
km	kilometres
yrs	years
%	per cent
pa	per annum (each year)
&	and
↕	and (hand-written)
=	means
≠	does not mean
→	led to, resulted in
↑	increase/ rose
↓	decrease/ fell
↗	rising to
↘	falling to
<	smaller than
>	larger than
∴	therefore
∵	because
Ger	Germany
Br	Britain
Fr	France
A-H	Austria-Hungary
parl	parliament
govt	government
ToV	Treaty of Versailles
LoN	League of Nations

NOTE: when you start doing this, you may find it very difficult and time-consuming. PERSEVERE ... as you get better, it will save you loads of time.

- Disagreement over REPARATIONS: USSR could take 10% of industrial equipment from western zones + whatever from their own zone.
- 1 June: USA & France announced plan for West Germany.
- 23 June: New currency in western zones + Berlin.
- 24 June: USSR stopped all road and rail traffic to Berlin.