

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.

Four Steps to War

3. Making Notes I – turning notes back into full text

TOP TIP: a sure way to appropriate the content of a text is change of form. Anything will do – into a story, an analogy, a cartoon, theatre. Change of form forces the info to go through your brain, and making it come out differently forces it to understand. Making notes will do this, and has the benefit that, at the end, you have something to revise from.]

Let's start by seeing an exemplar set of notes.

Each cloze exercise in this unit produces a pdf set of notes (so when you have made your own notes on each webpage, you can compare them against what someone else has done).

Here is an example from the [pdf notes](#) on the webpage on *Four Steps to War*:

Germany claimed French planes bombed Nuremberg → declared war on France..

[The character → is a commonly-used abbreviation for 'leading to' or 'resulting in'. ≠ means 'was not'.]

It is the note on this sentence:

Claiming that French planes had bombed the German town of Nuremberg, Germany declared war on France.

1. Study the note and the original paragraph together, noticing how the note-maker has condensed the ideas into the note – the aim has been to note only the key ideas and facts.
- 2a. Without looking at the webpage, convert the following note into sentences.
Plan ≠ flexible: Germany's 'mobilisation' = ATTACK.
- 2b. Repeat the exercise for this note:
Austrian Gen. HOTZENDORF called for 'surprise' war vs Serbia >25x since 1906 → assassination an excuse to attack

Now check your answers against the text in the webpage – there is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer, but analysing how the note-taker has compressed the ideas and facts from the text into the notes will help you when you come to make your own notes.