

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

Making notes is a skilled task, develops over years, and everyone has their own variant! Exs 5, 8, 13 & 14 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.

Germany and the Treaty

5. Making Notes I

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 *Germany and the Treaty*:

Clause 231: Ger denied blame. Soldier sent to sign refused, calling it a "LIE."

Clause 231 did not physically harm Ger but hurt national pride → desire to overturn ToV.

[The character '→' is a commonly-used abbreviation for 'leading to'/'resulting in']

1. Without looking at the webpage, convert this note in sentences. Check your answer against the text in [Section 2](#) of the webpage– there is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer, but it will help you analyse how the author has converted the text into the notes.
2. Repeat the exercise for these notes:

Reparations: Claimed intended to STARVE their children. Initially refused to pay; only started after Fr & Br invaded (Jan 1921).

Army: seen as leaving Ger defenceless. Initially refused to reduce; SCUTTLED fleet rather than hand it over. Army did not accept it had been defeated → *DOLCHSTOSSLEGENDE* (= blaming politicians).

And for as many other notes as you wish.

If you are feeling confident and adventurous, there is no reason not to have a go at converting this paragraph from [Section 3](#) of the webpage into notes.

Then you can check your effort against the pdf notes to see how you did.

Actually, the peacemakers had explicitly decided NOT to **Blame** Germany for the war, although some delegates wanted to do so.

Instead they used the word 'responsible' (which gave them the *legal* right to charge Germany reparations). The German delegation, however, (intentionally) translated the word 'responsible' with the German word '*Schuld*' – a word meaning 'responsible' in the sense of blame/ 'moral guilt' – so that they could be outraged about it. Historians have known about this since 1929.