## I'm not a bot



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When providing someone with a short version of a story, do you say Synopsis or Summary? Some people treat those two words as synonyms, and we want to know if they really are. Lets look at each word and its description, to also figure out how we should use them. Synopsis is a short description of a movie or a book, while Summary is a condensed
version of a work (like a movie or a book). It sounds very similar, as you probably noticed. In some cases those words might even be interchangeable. Lets take a look at some examples, before looking deeper and trying to find differences between those two words: The summary of the book gave away all the major plot points. The synopsis of the book
gave away all the major plot points. The synopsis of the book interested the reader without giving much away. As you can see by the two sets of examples, interchanging the words Summary and Synopsis doesn't deeply affect the meaning of the sentences. Ouite likely, you could
read or listen to any of the versions and still make perfect sense of it. However, Summary, as a condensed version, usually indicates a longer description, while Synopsis tends to be very short and concise. In that light, for the first set Summary would be preferred, and for the second set, Synopsis would be a more accurate word to use. A Synopsis
sums up what a book or movie is about, with only a few words. Its purpose isnt to give the story away or ruin any plot twists, but only to provide a general idea. The goal of a Synopsis is to help the reader or viewer decide if they want to check out the full version. The definition we find in The Cambridge Dictionary is the following: a short description
of contents of something such as a movie or a book. Keep in mind that a Synopsis is always very short. Here are some examples: Alfred made sure the synopsis for his book was short and sweet. The synopsis was designed to capture the attention of readers. The author made sure the synopsis didnt spoil the book. Martha told me the shows synopsis,
which sounded interesting. The synopsis of the show drew the attention of many viewers. As a condensed version of a Work, Summary is usually longer and a bit more detailed than a Synopsis. For example, the abstract of an academic work is a Summary. Unlike a Synopsis it
contains the main points of the work, so the reader can decide to read the full version or not. The Cambridge Dictionary corroborates that idea, defining Summary in use in some sentences: After having read the summary, I understood the themes of the
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were about to see or read, without giving away any surprises. The Cambridge Dictionary agrees with that description, and adds more meanings which arent connected to the context were looking at here. Take a look at some examples: Whats the plot of the show? The plot is wild, with many twists and surprises. Romeo and Juliet has quite a complicated
plot. All of her books had similar plots: cute couple meets, fights and in the end, gets back together. The plot was way too simple, with no suspense or adventure. Which one of those words is used more often than Summary or Plot? Lets see the graph from Google Ngram Viewer below and find out. Right now, Plot is used more often than Summary or Plot?
and Synopsis. But the graph shows some very interesting facts. First, Plot and Synopsis have been used just the same, with no big ups and downs, all along. Summary on the other hand, saw a huge increase in use around the 1980s, and was the most used word for a long time. Summary is a condensed version of a work, such as a book or movie. It
tells us the main points of it. Synopsis is shorter than a Summary, giving an overall idea of what the story is, without giving away too much. Plot is basically what a story is about. None of the earlier answers to this question have cited any authority for the particular distinctions that they make. In case some readers may be interested in reference-work
assessments of the relevant differences, I offer discussions from several such works. I should note at the outset that none of them include coverage of abstract,
summary, and synopsis (along with abbreviation, analysis, compend, compendium, digest, epitome, outline or synopsis is a kind of sketch closely following the plan [of a book]. An abstract or digest is an independent statement or synopsis is a kind of sketch closely following the plan [of a book]. An abstract or digest is an independent statement or synopsis is a kind of sketch closely following the plan [of a book].
of what the book contains. ... A summary is the most condensed statement of abstract and synopsis is identical to the treatment that appears in Fernald's English Synonyms and Antonyms, thirty-first edition (1914). In my view, while the descriptions of abstract and synopsis may still be accurate, the
description of summary treats that word far more restrictively than most people do who use it today. S. I. Hayakawa, Choose the Right Word: A Modern Guide to Synonyms (1968) groups abstract and synopsis (as well as abridgment, digest, outline, and prcis) under the category name summary. Here are the relevant portions of Hayakawa's
coverage: These words refer to a short description of the main points of a longer work or presentation. Summary is the most general of thought: a day-to-day summary of the proceedings in the murder trial; concluding each chapter with a summary of
its main arguments. The word implies a pithy paraphrase, with no attempt to catch the style of the original. Also, the word almost exclusively refers to something that follows after and is based on the extended presentation, or even concludes it as suggested by the common phrase in speechmaking: in summary. Abstract and prcis both refer to
summaries written most often by someone other than the original author; hence they are seldom part of the original presentation of essential points with no attempt to preserve flavor. Abstract most specifically refers to a scholarly or legal
citation that gives the gist of what may be a complex argument or study: a quarterly containing abstracts of doctoral dissertations in progress; an abstract of the proposed legislation. ...Outline and synopsis relate to proise in that they both retain the point-by-point ordering of the original; they are both most often a skeletal setting down of these points
but may be drawn up either by the author or someone else before, as well as after, the writing of the original. Within these possibilities, outline covers a wider range than synopsis usually refers to a plot summary of a piece of fiction. Ordinary prose sentences are most often used, rather than the numbered and lettered list suggested by
outline. It may tell in capsule form events treated in a completed work or those planned for a projected work: submitting the first chapter of his novel and a synopsis of the unwritten remainder; writing synopses of novels submitted as candidates for film treatment. The word may also refer to a paragraph that retells previous action and introduces an
installment of a serialized work of fiction. Hayakawa's assessment of how people use summary is seems generally valid for today's usage, although in my experience an "executive summary" physically precedes a full report or article rather than following it. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms (1968/1984) omits coverage of both overview and
summary, but addresses abstract and synopsis as part of a larger group of words that also includes epitome, brief, and conspectus mean a condensation of a larger work or treatment, usually one already in circulation. ... Abstract implies condensation of a
lengthy treatise or of a proposed lengthy treatment and stresses concentration of substance {abstract of a lecture} ... Both abstract of a lecture} ... Both abstract and epitome are used also in extended senses in reference to persons or things, the former stressing one or other (of the persons or things referred to) as a summary, the latter as a type
representing a whole {a man who is the abstract of all faults that all men followShak.} ... Synopsis and conspectus imply the giving of the salient points of a treatise or subject so that it may be quickly comprehended. Synopsis, however, often suggests an outline or coherent series of headings and conspectus a coherent account that gives a bird's-eye
view {provide in advance a synopsis of the lectures} As for overview, its meaning in modern English seems to be very close to that of summary, to judge from its brief entry in Merriam-Webster's Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary (2003):overview n (1588): a general survey: SUMMARYA summary is a condensed version of a text, emphasizing key points,
while a synopsis is a brief overview, often outlining the main plot or arguments, often used in academic or professional contexts. In contrast, a synopsis provides an overarching view, especially of a narrative,
summarizing the plot or main theme, frequently utilized in literature, film, or theater. When summarizing, one typically distills complex ideas or narratives into their most crucial elements, omitting details for brevity. Synopsis, however, often includes a brief description of the setting, characters, and plot, offering a snapshot of the content without
delving deeply into specifics. In academic writing, a summary is often used to present the core ideas of a research article or a detailed report in a succinct form. Conversely, a synopsis might be used by a screenwriter or novelist to pitch a story idea, providing just enough detail to pique interest without revealing every twist. Summaries are utilitarian,
aiming for clarity and brevity to convey essential points quickly. Synopses, while also brief, serve more as teasers, giving enough information to understand the general idea but often leaving room for curiosity and further exploration. In a synopsis, the aim is
to encapsulate the essence of a narrative, providing a clear overview without getting bogged down in details. To condense information, focusing on key points. To provide an overview, often of a narrative. Common in academic, professional texts. Used in literature, film, theater pitches. Main arguments, facts, conclusions. Plot, characters, setting of a
story. More detailed, less room for interpretation. More general than a symposis. Typically shorter and more general than a symposis.
film's synopsis on the poster intrigued me. A brief statement of the main points. Her summary of the meeting was clear and to the point. A quick overview summarizing the main themes. The synopsis on the website gave a preview of the lecture's content. A concise version of a longer text. The summary of the movel captured its plot in just three
paragraphs. A short summary, especially of a literary work. The book jacket included a brief synopsis of the novel. A reduction of content to essential points. The executive summary of the report highlighted the key findings. An outline that presents the essentials of a larger body of work. The director read the screenplay's synopsis before deciding to film
it. An abbreviated presentation of the main ideas. His summary of the article saved me a lot of reading time. A general overview of a narrative. The synopsis of the play revealed the dramatic plot. A brief statement mentioning the main points of something summary of our findings. A brief outline or general view, as of a subject or written work; and a subject or written work is a subject or written work.
condensation of a work. A reference work containing brief articles that taken together give an overview of an entire field. (Orthodoxy) A prayer book for use by the laity of the church. A general view, or a collection of heads or parts so arranged as to exhibit a general view of the whole; an abstract or summary of a discourse; a syllabus; a
conspectus. That the reader may see in one view the exactness of the method, as well as force of the argument, I shall here draw up a short synopsis of this epistle. A sketchy summary of the main points of an argument or theory An overview or outline, often of a narrative, highlighting key elements. Less detailed, focusing on a broad view of the
professional contexts, and to distill complex texts. It includes essential arguments and points, omitting minor details. No, they stick to factual information from the source. It might hint at themes or tones but remains mostly objective. Less so; they're more common in creative fields. Typically, yes, it should encompass all key elements. Yes, it's great for the source. It might hint at themes or tones but remains mostly objective. Less so; they're more common in creative fields. Typically, yes, it should encompass all key elements. Yes, it's great for the source. It might hint at themes or tones but remains mostly objective. Less so; they're more common in creative fields. Typically, yes, it should encompass all key elements. Yes, it's great for the source. It might hint at themes or tones but remains mostly objective. Less so; they're more common in creative fields. Typically, yes, it's great for the source. It might hint at themes or tones but remains mostly objective. Less so; they're more common in creative fields. Typically, yes, it's great for the source. The source fields are the source fields. Typically, yes, it's great for the source fields. Typically, yes, it's great fie
revisiting key points of a large text. Generally, yes, it is briefer than a summary. Yes, to accurately condense and reflect the main points. Ideally, it should be based on a good understanding of the main content. It can be creatively
written but should accurately reflect the source. Canola Oil vs. Olive OilRadiology vs. RadiographyHarlon MossHarlon is a seasoned quality moderator and accomplished content writer for Difference Wiki. An alumnus of the prestigious University of California, he earned his degree in Computer Science. Leveraging his academic background, Harlon
brings a meticulous and informed perspective to his work, ensuring content accuracy and excellence. Aimie Carlson, holding a master's degree in English literature, is a fervent English language enthusiast. She lends her writing talents to Difference Wiki, a prominent website that specializes in comparisons, offering readers insightful
analyses that both captivate and inform. Exploring the nuances of the world around us. Difference. Wiki is your trusted source for understanding the contrasts and comparisons that matter. Stay curious, stay informed. abcdefghijklmnopgrstuvwxyzCopyright 2015 - 2025 Difference. Wiki When it comes to sharing information in a concise way, two useful
tools are the synopsis and the summary. These tools help in shortening longer works, but they do so differently. Its important to know the difference between them for clear writing and communication. A synopsis is a short overview of a story or plot, mainly used for novels, plays, or movies. A summary, on the other hand, condenses the main points
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a work. Its often used in books, movies, or plays to give readers or industry professionals a concise outline without revealing every detail. The main purpose of a synopsis is to provide enough information to spark interest or give a clear idea of the storyline or argument, without going into the depth that the full work would. Short Summary of
Shakespeares Hamlet Hamlet, a tragedy by William Shakespeare, explores themes of treachery, revenge against his uncle Claudius for murdering his father, taking the throne, and marrying Hamlets mother, Gertrude. Hamlets quest for vengeance leads to
series of tragic events, including the deaths of Polonius, Ophelia, Gertrude, Claudius, and ultimately, Hamlet himself. The play delves into questions of life, death, and the nature of reality, leaving a lasting impact on literature and drama. On the other hand, a summary is a condensed version of a text that brings out its key points and main ideas.
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succumbing to his own wounds. Gertrude also dies after drinking poisoned wine meant for Hamlet. The play ends with the Norwegian Prince Fortinbras taking control of Denmark. When comparing synopses and summaries, its important to recognize their distinct features, as they serve different purposes in communication and writing. There are
three main differences to consider. A key difference lies in their length and level of detail. A summary is typically shorter and less detailed than a synopsis offers a more detailed outline, especially in the context of a story or narrative. It includes key
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allowing readers to quickly grasp the key points or findings. By choosing the appropriate tool based on the intended purpose and audience, writers can ensure that their message is conveyed clearly and effectively. When writing a synopsis, its important to provide a clear and concise outline of the plot and character arcs. Start by summarizing the
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understanding of the plot. For summaries, the goal is to distill the content down to its essential points. Begin by reading the text thoroughly to identify the main ideas and arguments. Then, organize these points in a logical order, creating a coherent overview of the material. Its crucial to avoid adding personal interpretation or opinion; instead, stick
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can ensure your message is clear and concise. Opt out or Contact us anytime. See our Privacy Notice Follow us on Reddit for more insights and updates. When providing someone with a short version of a story, do you say Synopsis or Summary? Some people treat those two words as synonyms, and we want to know if they really are. Lets look at each
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or facts in a report, discussion, etc. Lets see Summary in use in some sentences: After having read the summary, I understood the themes of the summary of the movie didnt interest me. She didnt watch the summary of the chapter? I havent done the reading. A
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sharing information in a concise way, two useful tools are the synopsis and the summary. These tools help in shortening longer works, but they do so differently. Its important to know the difference between them for clear writing and communication. A synopsis is a short overview of a story or plot, mainly used for novels, plays, or movies. A summary to summary the synopsis is a short overview of a story or plot, mainly used for novels, plays, or movies. A summary to summary the synopsis is a short overview of a story or plot, mainly used for novels, plays, or movies.
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out its key points and main ideas. Unlike a synopsis, which is more focused on plot or structure, a summary aims to give readers a fast understanding of what the content is about. It distills the essential information, leaving out the finer details and examples. The purpose of a summary is to allow someone to grasp the main arguments or themes of a
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storys plot, useful in the literary or entertainment fields. A summary, however, focuses on distilling the key ideas and arguments of a text, often used in academic or professional settings. Knowing the differences between these two tools is crucial for effective writing and communication. By selecting the right one based on your goal and audience, you
can ensure your message is clear and concise. Opt out or Contact us anytime. See our Privacy Notice Follow us on Reddit for more insights and updates. Definition: (a.) Formed into a sum; summed up; reduced into a narrow compass, or into few words; short; brief; concise; compendious; as, a summary statement of facts. (a.) Hence, rapidly
performed; quickly executed; as, a summary process; to take summary vengeance. (a.) A general or comprehensive statement; an abstract, abridged account; an abstract, abridgment, or compendium, containing the sum or substance of a fuller account; an abstract, abridgment, or compendium, containing the sum or substance of a fuller account; an abstract, abridgment, or compendium, containing the sum or substance of a fuller account.
(2) The key warning from the Fed chair A summary of Bernanke's hearing Earlier... MPs in London quizzed the Bank of England on Libor. (3) The summary statistics examined are (a) the difference between the averages of the last r and the first
s measurements. (4) Hospital discharge summary data were used to identify and study all 2,870 Rhode Island residents hospitalized in-state with head injuries during 1979 and biochemistry, a general discussion of AA, and a brief description of
other types of hair loss in women. (6) Russia's most widely watched television station, state-controlled Channel One, followed a bulletin about his death with a summary of the crimes he is accused of committing, including the siphoning of millions of dollars from national airline Aeroflot. (7) In summary, these studies show: 1) that the H-35 cell IGF-II
receptor is synthesized first as a 245-kDa precursor having 4-6 high-mannose oligosaccharide side chains, 2) processing of the receptor oligosaccharides by mannose removal and terminal sialylation converts the 245-kDa precursor to the 250-kDa mature product which has been previously identified as the functional receptor in the plasma membrane
3) the apparent molecular mass of the receptor in the absence of N-glycosylation is 232-kDa, and 4) glycosylation of the IGF-II receptor is required for the acquisition of the receptor in the absence of N-glycosylation of the IGF-II receptor is required for the acquisition of the receptor in the absence of N-glycosylation is 232-kDa, and 4) glycosylation of the IGF-II receptor is required for the acquisition of the IGF-II receptor is required for the acquisition of IGF-II binding activity. (8) It was a waspish summary in which he noted that, while Pope Francis "may have renounced his own infallibility", Margaret Thatcher never did. (9) In
summary, the risk of uterine rupture in patients who have previously undergone cesarean section but are allowed a trial of labor is low and not associated with serious complications. (10) The summary adjusted relative risk for a Down syndrome livebirth for all those of North African or Asian origin, compared to those for women of European origin
was about 1.56. (11) Sixty-one percent of all discharge summaries omitted the diagnosis of diabetes. (12) In summary, we have isolated a novel inositol tetrakisphosphate (IP4). (13) Results of analyses for cell surface antigens on lymphocytes and for cellular DNA content were reported
to the College of American Pathologists Computer Center and the summary data were mailed to participants. (14) In summary, the present results indicate that both the vasodilator and systolic pressor responses to adrenaline are enhanced in endurance-trained subjects. (15) 9.59am GMT Summary Well leave you with a summary of what transpired
here throughout the day: Julia Gillard announced a contest for her position as prime minister following calls by Simon Crean, a senior minister in her government, for her to be replaced by her predecessor, Kevin Rudd Shortly before the ballot was to take place Kevin Rudd announced he would not stand for the Labor Party leadership, re-iterating his
promise to the Australian people that he would not challenge Julia Gillard When it came time for the ballot, Gillard was the only person who stood for the leadership and she and her deputy Wayne Swan were elected unopposed. (16) In summary, we found that LY253963 inhibited influenza A and B virus replication in several cell types, but that it was
associated with cytostatic effects at low concentrations. (17) The study outcome of primary interest was the radiologist's report of the barium enema procedure. (18) During those conversations, Monaco underscored US support for Yemen, according to White House
summaries. (19) Updated at 7.42pm BST 7.19pm BST Summary Here's a summary of Obama's statement and Q&A: President Obama said that to avoid 'the abyss', Iraq must form a new, inclusive government. (20) Depressed patients who received ECT had more temporal horn atrophy and greater subcortical abnormality summary scores than normal
subjects. Definition: (n.) A general view, or a collection of heads or parts so arranged as to exhibit a general view of the whole; an abstract or summary of a discourse; a syllabus; a conspectus. Example Sentences: (1) The diagnosis of PTH still should rely on a synopsis of a typical clinical and biochemical hepatitis syndrome, characteristic serological
findings and an adequate intervall between blood transfusion and outbreak of hepatitis. (2) Thus, the signification and influence of religious, metaphysical, legal, socioeconomical and certain technical factors of the autopsy practice are briefly described, followed by a synopsis of the situation of the pathologist facing the demands of medicine, science,
education, and administration. (3) On the occasion of a case with fetal paroxysmal tachykardia a synopsis is given on former observations of extreme fetal tachycardias ante-partum. (4) The authors describe their own experiences with this problem, as well as a synopsis of pertinent scientific literature. (5) He performed his debut show, Dicing with Dr
Death, as part of the Edinburgh fringe comedy festival, described in its synopsis as a rip-roaring ride through his 20 years working with lifes one certainty: death. (6) A synopsis of the last 12 years provides information about the patients, indications for storage, the method of preservation used and the fate of the cryopreserved samples used for
insemination. (7) Since each of the specific CSF parameters may be false negative in some cases, a careful synopsis of the report in September, the air force claimed the watchdog relied on outdated, year-old information. (9) This synopsis of the two
syndromes includes definition, relative incidence, mechanism of fertilization, and clinical course. (10) This brief synopsis of an organizational perspective on early development represents an integration over the first three years of life;
that of a continuous neonatal state and caregiving interactional monitoring method over the first two months of life; and that of a 25- to 30-year follow-up on the same infants observed initially. (11) These are summarized with a synopsis indicates that
including the case described in this paper only 13 can be regarded as a clinical, morphologic, and functional entity. (13) A systematically organized synopsis involving a numerical estimate of different taxons (a quantitative analysis per Prosobranchia and Pulmonata subclass families) is presented. (14) Histological and roentgenological synopsis on the
importance of lymphangiosis carcinomatosa for the occurrence of unilateral Kerley-B lines. (15) Our synopsis of serovars corresponds with the results obtained in a recent world-wide study. (16) We present here a brief synopsis of serovars corresponds with the results obtained in a recent world-wide study. (16) We present here a brief synopsis of the ontogeny of immunotoxicology as a discipline including methodology currently used in our laboratory, as well as in
others, for investigating the immunomodulatory potential of chemicals at the cellular and biochemical level. (17) Based on a series of known facts on clinical findings and changes in the metabolism of chronic alcoholics and delirious people the possible pathomechanism of cerebral imbalances is presented according to a synopsis. (18) Finally, a
synopsis of equivalent nonparametric procedures for common parametric methods is presented. (19) It should be included in the synopsis of all endocrine and apparent diseases is still examined. (20) Within each industrial category,
synopsis of individual genetic toxicity studies is presented, followed by an interpretation of results on a comprehensive, industry-wide basis. When providing someone with a short version of a story, do you say Synopsis or Summary? Some people treat those two words as synonyms, and we want to know if they really are. Lets look at each word and its
description, to also figure out how we should use them. Synopsis is a short description of a movie or a book, while Summary is a condensed version of a work (like a movie or a book). It sounds very similar, as you probably noticed. In some cases those words might even be interchangeable. Lets take a look at some examples, before looking deeper and
trying to find differences between those two words: The summary of the book gave away all the major plot points. The synopsis of the book interested the reader without giving much away. As you can see by the two
sets of examples, interchanging the words Summary and Synopsis doesnt deeply affect the meaning of the sentences. Quite likely, you could read or listen to any of the versions and still make perfect sense of it. However, Summary, as a condensed version, usually indicates a longer description, while Synopsis tends to be very short and concise. In that
light, for the first set Summary would be a more accurate word to use. A Synopsis sums up what a book or movie is about, with only a few words. Its purpose isnt to give the story away or ruin any plot twists, but only to provide a general idea. The goal of a Synopsis is to help the reader or viewer
decide if they want to check out the full version. The definition we find in The Cambridge Dictionary is the following: a short description of contents of something such as a movie or a book. Keep in mind that a Synopsis is always very short. Here are some examples: Alfred made sure the synopsis for his book was short and sweet. The synopsis was
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usually longer and a bit more detailed than a Synopsis. For example, the abstract of an academic work is a Summary. Unlike a Synopsis it contains the main points of the work, so the reader can decide to read the full version or not. The Cambridge Dictionary corroborates that idea, defining Summary as a short statement of the main ideas or facts in a
report, discussion, etc. Lets see Summary in use in some sentences: After having read the summary of the movie didnt interest me. She didnt watch the show, as the summary of the movie didnt interest me. She didnt watch the summary of the summary of the movie didnt interest me. She didnt watch the summary of the summary 
the movie was provided to the parents. A Plot is what a movie or book is about, in very few words. It tells us the outline of the story were about to see or read, without giving away any surprises. The Cambridge Dictionary agrees with that description, and adds more meanings which arent connected to the context were looking at here. Take a look at
some examples: Whats the plot of the show? The plot is wild, with many twists and surprises. Romeo and Juliet has quite a complicated plot. All of her books had similar plots: cute couple meets, fights and in the end, gets back together. The plot was way too simple, with no suspense or adventure. Which one of those words is used more often, Synopsis,
Summary or Plot? Lets see the graph from Google Ngram Viewer below and find out. Right now, Plot is used more often than Synopsis have been used just the same, with no big ups and downs, all along. Summary on the other hand, saw a huge increase in use
around the 1980s, and was the most used word for a long time. Summary is a condensed version of a work, such as a book or movie. It tells us the main points of it. Synopsis is shorter than a Summary, giving an overall idea of what the story is, without giving away too much. Plot is basically what a story is about. None of the earlier answers to this
question have cited any authority for the particular distinctions that they make. In case some readers may be interested in reference-work assessments of the relevant differences, I offer discussions from several such works. I should note at the outset that none of them include coverage of overview, although I have no idea why they don't. James
Fernald, Funk & Wagnalls Standard Handbook of Synonyms, Antonyms & Prepositions, revised edition (1947), includes coverage of abstract, summary, and synopsis (along with abbreviation, analysis, compend, compendium, digest, epitome, outline, and prois) under the category name abridgment. Here is Fernald's coverage of the three terms of
special interest: An outline or synopsis is a kind of sketch closely following the plan [of a book]. An abstract or digest is an independent statement of results or conclusions. This treatment of abstract, summary, and synopsis is identical to the treatment that appears in Fernald's
English Synonyms and Antonyms, thirty-first edition (1914). In my view, while the description of summary treats that word far more restrictively than most people do who use it today. S. I. Hayakawa, Choose the Right Word: A Modern Guide to Synonyms (1968) groups abstract and
synopsis (as well as abridgment, digest, outline, and prcis) under the category name summary. Here are the relevant portions of Hayakawa's coverage: These words refer to a short description of the main points of a longer work or presentation. Summary is the most general of these words, referring to any attempt to condense into as few words as
possible an extended train of thought: a day-to-day summary of the proceedings in the murder trial; concluding each chapter with a summary of its main arguments. The word almost exclusively refers to something that follows after and is based on the
extended presentation, or even concludes it as suggested by the common phrase in speechmaking: in summary, Abstract and prcis both refer to summaries written most often by someone other than the original author; hence they are seldom part of the original presentation, though they follow it and are based on it. Like summary, they stress brevity
and the schematic representation of essential points with no attempt to preserve flavor. Abstract most specifically refers to a scholarly or legal citation that gives the gist of what may be a complex argument or study: a quarterly containing abstracts of doctoral dissertations in progress; an abstract of the proposed legislation. ...Outline and synopsis
relate to precis in that they both retain the point-by-point ordering of the original; they are both most often a skeletal setting down of these points, but may be drawn up either by the author or someone else before, as well as after, the writing of the original. Within these possibilities, outline covers a wider range than synopsis usually refers
to a plot summary of a piece of fiction. Ordinary prose sentences are most often used, rather than the numbered and lettered list suggested by outline. It may tell in capsule form events treated in a completed work or those planned for a projected work: submitting the first chapter of his novel and a synopsis of the unwritten remainder; writing
synopses of novels submitted as candidates for film treatment. The word may also refer to a paragraph that retells previous action and introduces an installment of a serialized work of fiction. Hayakawa's assessment of how people use summary is seems generally valid for today's usage, although in my experience an "executive summary" physically
precedes a full report or article rather than following it. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms (1968/1984) omits coverage of both overview and summary, but addresses abstract and synopsis as part of a larger group of words that also includes epitome, brief, and conspectus, under the category name abridgment; abstract, epitome,
brief, synopsis, conspectus mean a condensation of a larger work or treatment, usually one already in circulation. ... Abstract implies condensation of a lengthy treatment and stresses concentration of substance {abstracts of a lengthy treatment and epitome are used also in
extended senses in reference to persons or things, the former stressing one or other (of the persons or things referred to) as a summary, the latter as a type representing a whole {a man who is the abstract of all faults that all men followShak.} ... Synopsis and conspectus imply the giving of the salient points of a treatise or subject so that it may be
guickly comprehended. Synopsis, however, often suggests an outline or coherent account that gives a bird's-eve view {provide in advance a synopsis of the lectures} As for overview, its meaning in modern English seems to be very close to that of summary, to judge from its brief entry in Merriam-
Webster's Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary (2003):overview n (1588): a general survey: SUMMARY When providing someone with a short version of a story, do you say Synopsis or Summary? Some people treat those two words as synonyms, and we want to know if they really are. Lets look at each word and its description, to also figure out how we
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graph from Google Ngram Viewer below and find out. Right now, Plot is used more often than Summary and Synopsis. But the graph shows some very interesting facts. First, Plot and Synopsis have been used just the graph shows some very interesting facts. First, Plot and Synopsis have been used just the graph shows some very interesting facts.
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