

## The SUMMARY

- ✓ Gives the main idea and the most important information
- ✓ Does not show your own opinion of the reading
- ✓ Is very short

### The US Army combat uniform

US Army soldiers wear a uniform for everyday work. In the year 2004, the Army made some important changes to it and gave soldiers a new combat uniform. To make the new uniform, they chose a material that is easier to wash, dry and keep looking nice. They also changed some of the things on the uniform. First, they moved the bottom pockets to the shoulder sleeves to make them easier to reach. Then, they used zipper instead of buttons because zippers are easier to open with one hand. These three changes and some others, too, have served to lower the price of the uniform, make it better to wear, and easier to use. Soldiers know that a good uniform that fits right, feels good, and looks professional will help them to their jobs well.

### Steel

Steel is a metal that people use every day. It's a man made that is made of iron plus smaller amounts of one or more other metals. In factories where they make steel, workers heat iron and the other metals together to a very high temperature. When the metals cool, the workers can make the steel into thin pieces or thin sheets. Steel is a very good material because it is harder and stronger than iron, because factories can make it into different shapes, and because the metal keeps its shape better than iron. Also, different from iron, steel doesn't easily rust, which is what happens when water and air change iron. Steel is a metal used to make vehicles and machines. It's also in many things you can find in the home, like refrigerators, stoves, and washing machines, and even knives, forks and spoons in the kitchen.

### Jewelry stones

Many stones that are used to make jewelries look like diamonds, but they are not natural diamonds. Some are glass, others are zircon (a natural stone that is not as hard as diamonds), and some are cubic zirconia (which is a man-made stone). There other stones don't shine the way diamonds do, and that's how professional jewelers can see the difference between them and diamonds. People who don't have a lot of money to spend usually can't buy real diamonds, but they may be able to buy the other stones. While it is true that the zircon and cubic zirconia cost more than glass, they're certainly less expensive than diamonds.

Sample summaries:

1. *The US Army has a new combat uniform. They made lots of changes to the old uniform. The 2004 US Army Uniform is better, easier to use, and less expensive than the old one.*
2. *Steel is a man-made material. It's made of iron and other metals. It's a better metal than iron because it's harder and stronger. Steel is used in many everyday things.*
3. *There are stones that look like diamonds, but they don't shine the same way. Jewelers can tell you if a stone is not a real diamond. The other stones, which are made of glass, zircon or cubic zirconia cost less than diamonds.*