

Mastering Explanation Texts with Pip and Kit

Learning objective: To understand the features, purpose, and structure of an explanation text to inform the reader about how or why something happens.

Read each flashcard to learn about the key features of explanation texts. Use these to help you identify how to write your own clear and logical explanations.

What is the primary purpose of an explanation text?

To explain how or why something happens, or how something works, in a clear and logical way.

Which tense is most commonly used in explanation texts?

The present tense, because the facts are generally always true.

Why do we use causal conjunctions (e.g., because, therefore, as a result) in our writing?

To link causes to their effects so the reader understands the process.

How do subheadings help the reader?

They organise the text into small, manageable sections and help the reader find specific information quickly.

What are 'technical vocabulary' words?

Subject-specific words related to the topic (e.g., using 'evaporation' when explaining the water cycle).

Why might an explanation text include a diagram or a flowchart?

To provide a visual aid that helps the reader see the steps of a process more clearly.

What does it mean if an explanation is written in 'chronological order'?

It means the steps are presented in the order that they actually happen in time.

How can Kit the fox use an 'opening statement' at the start of an explanation?

By introducing the topic clearly so the reader knows exactly what is being explained.

What is a 'concluding sentence' used for?

It provides a summary of the process or a final thought to round off the explanation.

True or False: Explanation texts are usually written in the first person ('I' or 'we').

False. They are usually written in the third person to keep the tone formal and objective.

What is the benefit of using numbered lists in an explanation?

They make the sequence of steps very easy for the reader to follow in order.

Pip the caterpillar wants to write an explanation. Should he use an informal, chatty style or a formal, factual style?

A formal, factual style, as the goal is to inform the reader accurately.