

Explaining How Things Work: The Guide to Explanation Texts

Unravel the mysteries of the world: Read, learn, and explain!

- Explanation texts use a logical, chronological order to show the sequence of events or how a process happens from beginning to end.
- They often include technical vocabulary specific to the subject, such as 'evaporation' for science or 'coordinates' for maths.
- Writers use causal conjunctions like 'because', 'therefore', or 'as a result' to show how one action leads to another.
- Clear subheadings are used to break the text into manageable sections, helping the reader find specific information quickly.
- Visual aids like diagrams, flow charts, or labelled drawings are essential to help the reader 'see' the process in action.
- The language is usually written in the present tense because the process described is a general truth that happens repeatedly.

Did you know? Did you know? Explanation texts are often used to explain natural processes, such as the water cycle or how a bee like Bea creates honeycomb, by breaking complex ideas down into simple, step-by-step stages.

Key vocabulary: Chronological · Conjunctions · Diagrams · Causal · Subheadings · Technical vocabulary