

Max's Magnificent Manuals: An Instruction Quiz

Learning objective: To identify, analyse, and apply the features of instructional texts, including imperative verbs, temporal connectives, and clear sequencing.

Read the text provided by Max the Monkey and answer the questions below. Use your knowledge of formal, instructional writing to help you succeed!

How to Build a Sturdy Bird Feeder

1. First, gather your materials: a clean plastic bottle, two wooden spoons, and some strong string.
2. Carefully cut two small holes on opposite sides of the bottle.
3. Push the wooden spoon through the holes so the handle rests on one side and the bowl on the other.
4. Repeat this step further down for a second spoon.
5. Finally, tie the string around the neck of the bottle and hang it in a quiet spot.

Answer Key: 1. A, 2. True, 3. Imperative, 4. B, 5. False, 6. Chronological, 7. C, 8. True, 9. D, 10. Temporal connective.

Word bank: Imperative · Chronological · Subheading · Bullet points · Temporal connective · Diagram

1. 1. Which of these is an example of an imperative verb used in the text? A) Carefully, B) Cut, C) Bottle, D) String. Answer: (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Instructional texts should always be written in the past tense. Answer: (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the technical name for a 'bossy' verb that starts an instruction, such as 'Push' or 'Gather'? Answer: (1 mark)

4. 4. Why are numbered steps used in this text? A) To show the weight, B) To show the correct chronological order, C) To count the items, D) To make it look pretty. Answer: (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: It is helpful to include a list of 'What You Need' before the instructions begin. Answer: (1 mark)

6. 6. What is the specific term for the order in which these steps are written? Answer: (1 mark)

7. 7. Which phrase acts as a temporal connective in step 1? A) Clean plastic, B) Gather your, C) First, D) Strong string. Answer: (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Instructions should be written clearly so that a reader can follow them without getting confused. Answer: (1 mark)

9. 9. Which feature would best help a reader understand the position of the spoon holes? A) A title, B) A list, C) A glossary, D) A labelled diagram. Answer: (1 mark)

10. 10. What do we call words like 'Finally', 'Next', and 'Afterwards' that help the reader know the timing of the steps? Answer: (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a simple invention, such as a 'Mechanical Homework Helper', including three clear, numbered instructions written in your best handwriting.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why imperative verbs are essential for effective instructional writing. 2. Compare and contrast a recipe with a set of assembly instructions; what features do they share? 3. Justify your answer: Why might using bullet points be better than a paragraph for a list of ingredients? 4. What might happen if the steps in the bird feeder guide were written in the wrong order? 5. If you were writing instructions for a younger pupil, how would you change your vocabulary? 6. Create an original set of instructions for 'How to make the perfect cup of cocoa', ensuring you use at least four different temporal connectives.