

Max's Magnificent Mechanics: Explanation Text Quiz

Learning objective: To identify and apply the structural and linguistic features of an explanation text.

Help Max the monkey understand how things work! Read the questions carefully and select the best answer for each. Remember, explanation texts explain how or why something happens.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Diagram, 5.Causal, 6.Present, 7.True, 8.Subheading, 9.Chronological, 10.Technical.

Word bank: Chronological · Diagram · Conjunction · Causal · Technical · Subheading · Present tense · Passive voice

1. Which of these is the main purpose of an explanation text? A) To tell a funny story B) To persuade someone to buy a toy C) To explain how or why something happens* D) To describe a character (1 mark)

2. True or False: Explanation texts often use a logical, step-by-step order. (1 mark)

3. True or False: An explanation text should always be written in the past tense. (1 mark)

4. What do we call the visual aid that labels parts of an object to help the reader understand the text better? (1 mark)

5. Which type of conjunction is used to explain the reason for something? A) Coordinating B) Causal* C) Subordinating D) Comparative (1 mark)

6. Explanation texts usually use which tense? A) Past B) Future C) Present* D) Modal (1 mark)

7. True or False: Technical vocabulary is often included to provide accurate information about a subject. (1 mark)

8. What do we call the small headings used to break the text into sections to make it easier to read? (1 mark)

9. If a text explains a process from start to finish, what is this order called? A) Alphabetic B) Random C) Chronological* D) Narrative (1 mark)

10. Name one specific type of word that would be found in an explanation text about space rockets (e.g., 'propulsion'). (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a simple machine, such as a pulley or a lever, and add labels using technical vocabulary to explain how it functions.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why explanation texts use diagrams rather than just paragraphs of writing. 2. Compare and contrast an explanation text with a recount of a school trip. 3. Justify why the use of causal conjunctions (e.g., 'consequently', 'therefore') is essential in scientific writing. 4. What might happen if an explanation text did not follow a logical order? 5. If you were writing an explanation about how a bee makes honey, what technical words would you include? 6. Critique the importance of using the present tense when explaining how a process works.