

How Things Work: Explanation Texts

Learning objective: To understand and use the features of an explanation text.

Max the monkey loves to solve puzzles. Today, he is learning how to write an explanation text. Follow the steps below to help Max write about how a bicycle works.

An explanation text tells the reader how or why something happens. It often uses headings to split up information. It uses the present tense because the facts are always true. It might use words like 'first', 'next', and 'finally' to show the order of steps. A diagram helps the reader see the parts of the object.

Word bank: Title · Diagram · Heading · Flowchart · Present tense · Time words

1. Max needs a name for his text. What do we call the name at the top of a page? Use the word bank to help you. (1 mark)

2. Explanation texts explain how things work. Should we write in the past tense or the present tense? Circle your answer. (1 mark)

3. Max wants to use 'time words' to order his steps. Write down two examples of time words. (2 marks)

4. Why do we add a diagram to an explanation text? Start your sentence with: A diagram helps the reader... (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple diagram of a bicycle and label one part, like the 'wheel' or the 'handlebar'.



Extension challenge: Write one sentence about how you brush your teeth using the word 'first'.