

Mastering Explanation Texts with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To identify, understand, and apply the structural and linguistic features of a formal explanation text.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of non-fiction writing features to provide clear, detailed answers. Remember to use formal tone and precise vocabulary.

Word bank: Chronological · Causal conjunctions · Technical vocabulary · Present tense · Passive voice · Subheadings

1. Kit the Fox is writing an explanation text about how a wind turbine generates electricity. Why should Kit use a formal tone and technical vocabulary instead of informal, chatty language? (2 marks)

2. Explanation texts often use causal conjunctions (e.g., 'consequently', 'therefore', 'as a result'). Explain how these words help the reader understand a process. (2 marks)

3. Why is it important for an explanation text to be written in the present tense? Give an example of a sentence that shows this. (2 marks)

4. If Kit were writing about the 'Water Cycle', why would he choose to use subheadings? How do they assist the reader? (2 marks)

5. Look at this sentence: 'The lever is pushed down by the operator.' Identify if this is active or passive voice, and explain why a writer might use this in an explanation text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a simple machine or a natural process (like a plant growing) and label the different parts using technical vocabulary, just as Kit would do in his science journal.



Extension challenge: Choose a household object, such as a toaster or a bicycle, and write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) explaining how it works. Ensure you include at least two causal conjunctions and one subheading.