

Max's Magnificent Explanation Text Challenge

Learning objective: To identify the structural and linguistic features of an explanation text, including causal conjunctions, technical vocabulary, and logical sequencing.

Max the monkey has been busy categorising his notes on how things work. Read the questions carefully and test your knowledge of explanation texts. Choose the correct answer or provide the brief explanation requested.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Technical vocabulary, 4.B, 5.False, 6.Chronological order, 7.A, 8.B, 9.Causal conjunctions, 10.True.

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

1. 1. Which tense is most commonly used in an explanation text? A) Past simple, B) Future perfect, C) Present simple, D) Past continuous. Answer: *C (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Explanation texts are designed to describe 'how' or 'why' something happens. Answer: True (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the term for words specific to the topic being explained, such as 'evaporation' or 'photosynthesis'? Answer: Technical vocabulary (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these is a primary feature used to guide the reader through different sections? A) Rhyming stanzas, B) Subheadings, C) Character dialogue, D) First-person anecdotes. Answer: *B (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Explanation texts should always be written in the first person ('I' or 'we'). Answer: False (1 mark)

6. 6. In what order should the steps of a process be presented to ensure the reader understands the sequence? Answer: Chronological order (1 mark)

7. 7. Which of these is an example of a causal conjunction? A) Therefore, B) Quickly, C) Underneath, D) Although. Answer: *A (1 mark)

8. 8. Why are diagrams frequently included in explanation texts? A) To make the page look pretty, B) To provide a visual representation of complex information, C) To take up space, D) To replace all the writing. Answer: *B (1 mark)

9. 9. What is the name for words like 'consequently', 'because', and 'as a result' that link causes to effects? Answer: Causal conjunctions (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: An effective explanation text maintains a formal and objective tone. Answer: True (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram that could accompany an explanation text about how a rainforest ecosystem functions. Ensure your labels use precise, scientific vocabulary.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why explanation texts require a logical flow rather than a narrative structure. 2. Compare and contrast an explanation text with a recount. 3. Justify why using the passive voice is often preferred in formal scientific explanations. 4. What might happen if an explanation text omitted its subheadings? 5. Draft a short paragraph explaining how a simple machine (e.g., a lever) works using at least two causal conjunctions. 6. Critically evaluate: Should an explanation text include an introduction, or is it better to start directly with the first step? Justify your choice.