

Mastering the Mechanics: Understanding Explanation Texts

Learning objective: To identify, analyse, and construct the key structural and linguistic features of an explanation text.

Read the following questions carefully. Ensure you use technical terminology such as 'causal conjunctions', 'fronted adverbials', and 'passive voice' where appropriate in your responses.

N/A - This resource focuses on the application of knowledge regarding the structural and linguistic components of explanation texts.

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

1. Explain why explanation texts are typically written in the present tense rather than the past tense. Provide an example to justify your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. Identify two causal conjunctions and explain how they help the reader understand the relationship between a cause and its effect within a process. (2 marks)

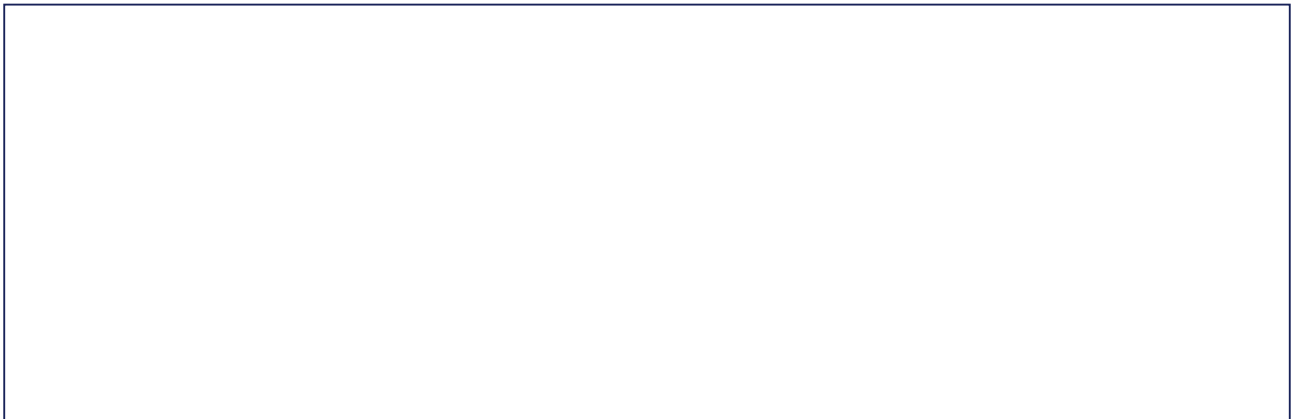
3. Compare and contrast the function of a diagram compared to a paragraph of text. Why might an author choose to include both in an explanation of how a bicycle works? (3 marks)

4. Rewrite the following sentence using the passive voice: 'The farmer sows the seeds in the field.' Explain why the passive voice is often preferred in formal scientific explanations. (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the clarity of an explanation text if the author failed to use subheadings or numbered lists? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

6. Draft a short opening paragraph (3-4 sentences) for an explanation text titled 'How a Honeybee Makes Honey'. You must include one fronted adverbial and at least one piece of technical vocabulary. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a clear, labelled diagram that could accompany an explanation text about how a water cycle functions. Ensure your labels use formal, technical language.



Extension challenge: Imagine Nova the Owl is writing an explanation text about why stars twinkle. Write a 'Glossary of Terms' box to include at the side of her text, defining four complex words you would expect to find in her writing. Explain why a glossary is a useful tool for a reader.