

Mastering Instructional Texts: Year 6 Revision

Learning objective: To understand the features, purpose, and linguistic devices used in formal instructional writing.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of instructional texts. Use the answer side to check your understanding of key terminology used by Max the Maths-Monkey and Pip the Bookworm.

What is the primary purpose of an instructional text?	Define an 'imperative verb' and give an example.
To provide clear, step-by-step guidance to help the reader complete a specific task or achieve a goal.	A command word used to start an instruction (e.g., 'Mix', 'Cut', 'Fold', 'Place').
Why are instructions usually written in chronological order?	What is the function of a 'subheading' in a set of instructions?
Because the steps must be followed in a specific sequence to ensure the task is completed safely and successfully.	To organise the text into logical sections, making it easier for the reader to find specific information.
How do 'modal verbs' like 'must', 'should', or 'could' change an instruction?	What is an 'adverbial of time' and why is it used?
They indicate the level of necessity or obligation (e.g., 'You must wear goggles' is a strict safety rule).	A word or phrase that tells the reader when to do something (e.g., 'After ten minutes', 'Next', 'Finally').
Why is 'technical vocabulary' often included in instructions?	What is the benefit of using bullet points or numbered lists?
To provide precise information about specific tools, ingredients, or parts needed for the task.	They allow the reader to scan the text quickly and keep the steps distinct and easy to follow.
What is the difference between a 'list of equipment' and the 'method'?	Why should instructional language be concise and clear?
The equipment list details what you need to start, while the method details the actions you need to take.	To avoid confusion and ensure the reader can follow the steps without making mistakes.