Mastering Explanation Texts with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To identify, use, and organise the linguistic and structural features of an explanation text.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of formal, non-chronological, and explanatory writing to provide clear, logical answers. Remember to use causal conjunctions and technical vocabulary where appropriate.

Kit the Fox is planning to write an explanation text about how a computer network functions. To make sure the writing is effective, Kit needs to use formal language, third-person perspective, and clear organisational devices. An explanation text aims to explain 'how' or 'why' something happens, moving from a general statement to a detailed breakdown of a process.

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

1. Explain why an explanation text is typically written in the present tense. Give an example sentence that Kit might use. (2 marks)

2. Identify two organisational devices (features) that help a reader navigate an explanation text easily. (2 marks)

3. Write a sentence explaining how a computer processes data, using at least one causal conjunction (e.g., consequently, therefore, as a result). (2 marks)

4. Why is it important to use technical vocabulary when writing an explanation text? Provide an example of a technical term related to a process you have studied. (2 marks)

5. Rewrite this simple sentence into the passive voice: 'The processor sends the data to the screen.' (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a clear, labelled diagram that could accompany an explanation text about how a honeybee collects nectar. Include arrows to show the direction of the process.

Extension challenge: Choose a process you know well (e.g., how rain is formed or how a lightbulb works). Write the opening paragraph of an explanation text, ensuring you include a 'General Statement' that introduces the topic to the reader.