

Explaining the World with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To identify and understand the features and purpose of an explanation text.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge about how explanation texts work. Read the front of the card, think of the answer, then check if you are right!

What is the main purpose of an explanation text?

To explain how or why something happens or works.

What type of tense is usually used in an explanation text?

The present tense (e.g., 'the water flows').

What do we call the small pictures or drawings that help explain how something works?

A diagram.

What is the name for words that are specific to a certain topic, such as 'evaporation' or 'gears'?

Technical vocabulary.

Why do explanation texts use subheadings?

To organise the information into clear sections for the reader.

What does a 'cause and effect' conjunction show?

It explains why something happens (e.g., 'because', 'so', 'therefore').

What is a 'chronological' order?

Arranging steps in the order that they happen in time.

Pip the caterpillar loves adding these to his text to show extra information near a picture. What are they?

Captions.

Max the monkey wants to know: what usually comes at the start of an explanation text?

An opening statement or introduction to explain what is being explained.

Why do we use numbered lists in an explanation text?

To show the sequence of steps clearly.

True or False: Explanation texts use lots of rhyming poetry.

False. They use clear, factual language.

What punctuation mark is often used at the end of a bullet point or numbered step?

A full stop.