

Mastering Explanation Texts with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To understand the features, purpose, and language structure of explanation texts as required by the Year 6 English curriculum.

Use these flashcards to revise the key features of an explanation text. Kit the Fox suggests reading the front of the card first, then testing yourself on the answer before flipping it over!

What is the primary purpose of an explanation text?

To explain how or why something happens, often focusing on processes or natural phenomena.

What is the typical tense used in an explanation text?

The present tense, as the facts are generally true at any time.

Give three examples of causal conjunctions used to show links between events.

Because, therefore, consequently, so, as a result.

Why are subheadings used in an explanation text?

To organise the information into manageable sections and help the reader find specific information quickly.

What is the 'passive voice' and why is it often used in explanations?

It is when the object of the sentence becomes the subject (e.g., 'The water is heated'). It is used to sound objective and focus on the process rather than the person doing the action.

Why is technical vocabulary important in an explanation text?

It ensures the information is precise, accurate, and reflects the specific subject matter being explained.

What is the function of a diagram or flowchart in an explanation text?

To provide a visual representation of a complex process, making it easier for the reader to understand the steps.

What does it mean to write in 'chronological order'?

Writing the steps of a process in the order that they actually happen in time.

Why might an author include a glossary in an explanation text?

To define complex technical terms and support the reader's understanding of the subject.

True or False: Explanation texts are written in the first person (I, we).

False. They are usually written in the third person to remain formal and objective.