

Explaining How Things Work: A Writing Frame

Learning objective: To structure an explanation text effectively using technical vocabulary, causal conjunctions, and clear logical sequences.

Follow the structure below to explain a process or how a machine works. Use your word bank to link your ideas and ensure your explanation is clear for the reader.

Have you ever wondered how a lighthouse produces such a powerful beam of light to guide ships safely to the shore?

Word bank: consequently · subsequently · furthermore · as a result · due to this · in order to · initially · meanwhile · finally · therefore

1. Introduction: Briefly introduce the topic you are explaining. What is the process or object? Starter: Have you ever wondered how... (2 marks)

2. The Setup: Describe the key components or initial conditions required before the process begins. Starter: Before the process can start, it is essential that... (3 marks)

3. Step-by-Step Sequence: Detail the main stages of the process in chronological order. Starter: Initially, the system begins by... (4 marks)

4. Causal Explanation: Explain why each step happens using causal conjunctions. Starter: As a result of this action, the mechanism... (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the final outcome or the importance of the process. Starter: In conclusion, this remarkable process ensures that... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose a piece of technology or a natural phenomenon that Kit the Fox or Bea the Honeybee might investigate. Write a short paragraph using at least three pieces of technical vocabulary related to that subject.