

To write an Explanation Text – Day 2

Yesterday, you should have watched the Oak Academy video and made useful notes to use within your explanation text.

Today you are going to start drafting your text and drawing any diagrams that you want to include. The focus will be on the introductory paragraph as this will set the standard for the rest of your work.



Explanation

Explaining how something works or why something occurs.

Explanation Texts:
An explanation text gives us information about a subject that we are interested in as it explains how something works or why something occurs.

Structure:	Key Language Features:	Examples:
* Introductory statement	* Present tense	The Water Cycle, How do bees make honey?,
* Steps explaining how things happen	* Time connectives	Why do volcanoes erupt?
* Series of events	* Paragraphs	How do flowers grow?
* Step by step guide	* Labelled diagrams/pictures	
* Interesting facts	* Third person	

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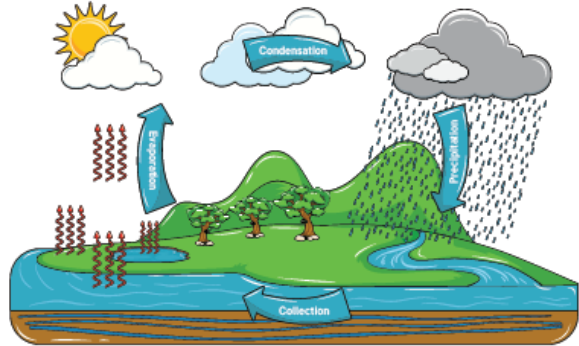
Here is an example of an explanation text on how the water cycle works. Unusually this starts with a diagram before the introductory paragraph.

On the next page, this paragraph has been annotated – like we would in class to explore the different grammatical features, punctuation and spellings that have been used.

Please read this paragraph before you look at the annotated one – how many features can you see?

How the water cycle works

Explanation TextY5



The water that runs into your bath, washes your car and rains on your parade is all the same water that the dinosaurs drank millions of years ago and that flooded the ancient villages of our ancestors. This is because Earth is the biggest recycler of all, especially when it comes to water! This is a process known as the water cycle. This means that water moves around Earth and its atmosphere, taking on different states – a liquid, a gas and a solid. The water cycle is necessary to mankind's survival and the health of the environment but how does it work?

The water cycle is known as the hydrological cycle.

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How many of these did you spot?

Introductory paragraph to introduce the process ↘

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facts —

How does a Telescope Work?

A telescope makes faraway objects look closer and lets you see them better. This text explains how a telescope works.

Why do we need a telescope?

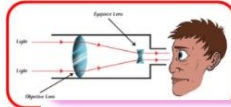
When things are faraway, the pupil of your eye does not allow enough light to enter. This means that you can not see the object in enough detail. Also, a faraway object projects only a tiny image onto the back of your eye. A telescope improves your vision in two ways. Firstly, the large end of the telescope collects lots more light from the object you are looking at. Secondly, the eyepiece of the telescope magnifies the small image, allowing you to see a bigger, more detailed image.

Optical telescopes

Optical telescopes observe visible light from space. Small ones allow amateur astronomers to study the night sky. In addition to this, there are some rather large optical telescopes positioned around the world. These are used by professional astronomers. There are two main types of optical telescope. The refractor telescope uses a glass lens, whilst the reflection telescope uses mirrors.

The refractor telescope

A refractor telescope collects light through a special lens called an objective lens. When you look at a faraway object, like a star, the objective lens collects the light from that object. Next, the light travels along the telescope and through an eyepiece. Finally, the eyepiece acts like a magnifying glass, making the object look bigger.



The reflection telescope

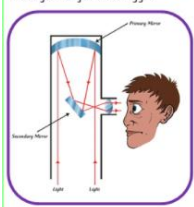
A reflection telescope uses a primary mirror. A secondary mirror reflects the light from the primary mirror to the eyepiece.

Bigger images

The smaller the object light it can collect. The less detailed image, primary mirror, the more you see a larger and

Did you know?

The Hubble Space Telescope orbits the Earth at a speed of 5 miles per second. It spin around the Earth, taking pictures of planets, stars and galaxies.



Here is another example, enlarged from an explanation text on “How do periscopes work.”

Notice how the information is written in paragraphs, not bullet points, and how much technical and scientific language is used throughout the text. You can also clearly see the time connectives and subheadings that have been used.

As you draft your work today, you need to write in paragraphs and refer to any diagrams that you use.

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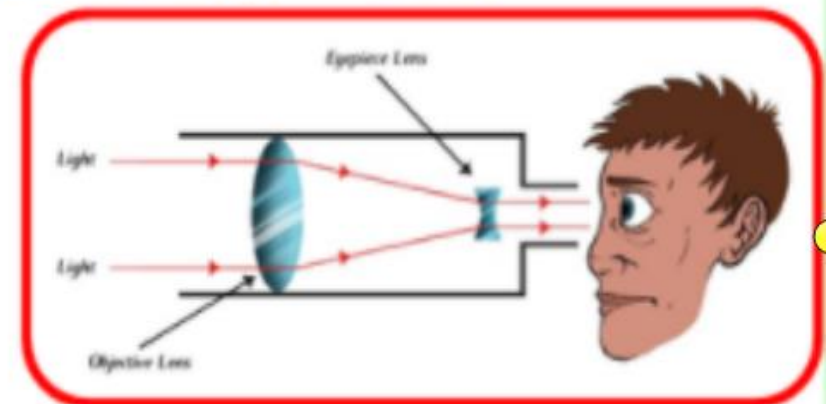
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Tips for Writing an Excellent Explanation.

- Decide whether diagrams, charts or illustrations would help to explain.
- Use a title that indicates what you are writing about. A **how** or **why** title intrigues the reader e.g. 'Why do sloths hang about?'
- Use the first paragraph to introduce the subject and to define key words.
- Organise your writing carefully. Do the ideas flow?
- Finish by drawing your ideas together in a concluding paragraph.
- If you use specific terminology you need a glossary.
- Interest the reader with exclamations e.g. Beware – Whirlwinds can kill!
- Reread your explanation pretending that you do not know anything about the subject. Does it make sense? Is it clear?

Today you will need to start drafting your explanation text, starting with your introductory paragraph, which I would like you to submit on seesaw for me to review.

Whilst you are waiting for my feedback, please carry on drafting the rest of your paragraphs, ready for you to rewrite and present in neat tomorrow.

I suggest you draw any diagrams on a different piece of paper and then you can stick these on to your writing tomorrow.

You may also want to include a section on reflection or refraction to add extra information to your text.

Please use the list of connectives to help you with your writing and then show your work to an adult to make sure that your explanations are clear and that you have included everything you think you need.

Tomorrow, I will provide you with a checklist for you to use as you rewrite your work in neat.

I look forward to reading your opening paragraph at some point this morning.



Connectives

Adding

and
also
as well as
moreover
too

Sequencing

next
then
first, second,
third,
finally
meanwhile
eventually
after, before

Emphasising

above all
in particular
especially
significantly
indeed
notably

Comparing

equally
in the same way
similarly
likewise
as with
like

Cause & Effect

because
so
therefore
thus
consequently

Qualifying

however
although
unless
except
if
as long as

Illustrating

for example
such as
for instance
as revealed by
in the case of

Contrasting

whereas
instead of
alternatively
otherwise
unlike
on the other hand

