

Year 5/6 - Autumn 2

Writing Genre: Non-Fiction

Explanation Texts



Non-Fiction - Explanation Texts

Technician Writing Targets - 5

Use paragraphs to organise information and ideas around a theme.

Use brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis.

Non-Fiction - Explanation Texts

Technician Writing Targets - 3

Use headings to aid

Use brackets to group ideas together.

Non-Fiction - Explanation Texts

Technician Writing Targets - 4

Use passive verbs appropriately.

Use a wide range of clause structures, showing their position within a sentence.

Monday

L.O: To investigate the features of explanation texts.

Monday - Fluency of skills - 5 Accurately spell homophones

Look at these homophone words. Circle the correct word to fit the sentence. **b**

The Olympians (rowed / rode / road) successfully into the coxless four final.

Despite being thrown from her horse, the jockey (rowed / rode / road) to the finish.

Monday - Fluency of skills - 3 Use commas in lists

Put three commas in the correct places in the list sentence?



The names of the horses were Bobby, Merlin and Gigsley.

The house was full of old toys, many rugs, piles of rubbish and a dog called Nell.

Monday - Fluency of skills - 4 Use suffixes

Match the suffix to the correct word.

class

pressure

active

Prior knowledge

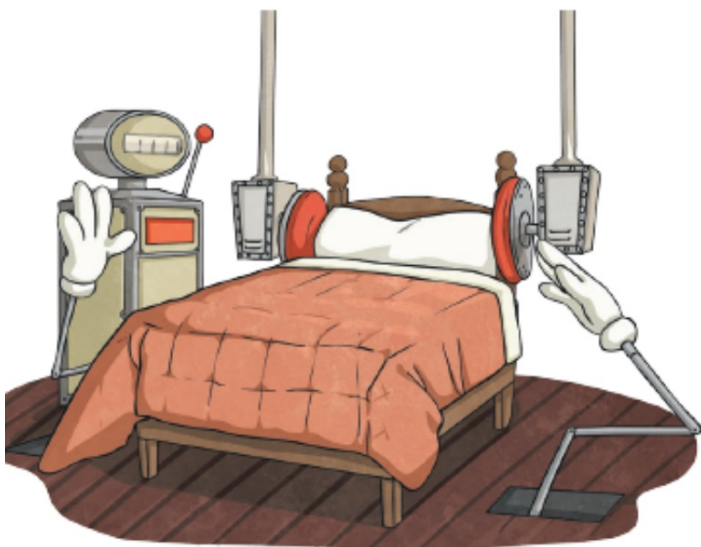
Which features should be included in an explanation text?

<i>Explanation texts</i>	
<i>Genre</i>	
<i>Audience</i>	
<i>Purpose</i>	

Find the features of an explanation text...

How Can the Snoozatron Help You Sleep?

Wallace is struggling to sleep, he activates his 'atron' device. This remarkable contraption will help somniac inventor return swiftly to the land of nod. you like to know how it works? Then read on...



Auto-Comfy Bed

Language Features

Title using a 'How' or 'Why' question

Introductory opening statement

Features information in a series (chronological order)

Present tense

Diagrams/illustrations

Technical words

Passive voice

Time adverbials

Cause and effect conjunctions

Rhetorical questions

Formal vocabulary

Concluding paragraph

It Works

ing that he's wide awake in the middle of the night, he pulls the big, red lever (next to his bed) that starts the machine; immediately, an alarm rings in Wallace's bedroom. As a result, his faithful assistant wakes up and retrieves a sheep costume from the wardrobe where it's hidden and puts it on.

While, back in Wallace's room, several mechanisms get into action: giant mechanical hands – covered in black fabric – bounce out from under his bed, re-tucking his sheets; two huge leather pads appear and begin to push and lump the pillows from both sides (see illustration), and both devices disappear again. A pair of pincers drops the wings down and deposits a cosy hot water bottle on Wallace's lap. This is accompanied by another arm, which

Language Feature

Title using a 'How' or 'Why' question

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Features information in a series of paragraphs (chronological order)

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Cause and effect conjunctions

Rhetorical questions

Formal vocabulary

Concluding paragraph

his favourite teddy bear. As a consequence of these events, Wallace starts to feel warm and sleepy again. At the same time, the picture on the wall folds down to reveal a record player, which immediately begins to play soothing music. Additionally, the sound of lambs bleating can be heard.

Next, Gromit is sleepily waiting in the kitchen, drinking tea, because he knows he'll soon be called to catch drops open above him and Wallace calls out, "Gromit!" Gromit sighs. Wearily, he steps onto a circular platform, which is in turn mounted on a coiled spring. Suddenly, he is catapulted through the air into Wallace's room and up past the end of the bed, falling back and rebounding on the platform.

The process is repeated over and over. Every time a 'sheep' appears, Wallace counts: "One, two, three..." until he starts to feel sleepy again - the machine can reliably bounce Gromit up to 9999 times!

Language Features

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Features information in a series of paragraphs (chronological order)

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Formal vocabulary

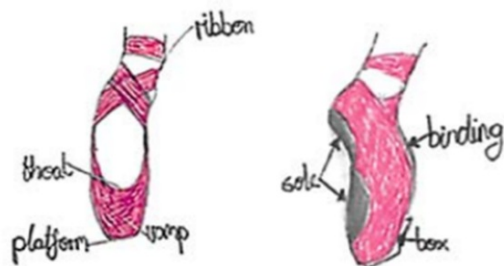
Concluding paragraph

Piece C: Explanation

How Pointe Shoes Came To Be

Have you ever wondered why ballerinas look so beautiful and graceful on stage? Keep on reading to find out about what makes the Nutcracker you saw at Christmas the magical story that it is.

Pointe shoes are what make dancers different and beautiful. With their pink satin and silky ribbons, these shoes have been around since 1795. They were invented to make ballerinas look weightless when dancing, so they started spinning, balancing and jumping en pointe (on the tips of their toes). They are traditionally worn by women for a beautiful *pas de deux* (a solo dance with one man and one woman) but in some ballets men go en pointe too. There is an all male ballet company called Les Ballet Trockadero that had a very famous production of Swan Lake featuring men dancing en pointe as the female swans.



A diagram showing all the technical parts of a modern pointe shoe.

Language

Title using a ?

Introductory or

Features inform
(chronological

Diagrams/illu.

Technical wor

Passive voice

Time adverbial

Cohesive adve

Cause and eff

Rhetorical que

Qualifying wr

Formal vocabu

Colons

Concluding pa

Most people might ^{ask} think 'why hurt your feet like that?' But as soon as you get into the ballet world your life ambition is to start pointe work. This exact thing happened to me. Pointe shoes are very desirable to young dancers too. Pointe work is meant for dancers ~~at least~~ over the age of 11 as it is ideal once your feet have stopped growing. Meanwhile, at the Royal Ballet Lower School (White Lodge, Richmond Park, London) the pupils start at the age of 13. It was also thought (until very recently) that the London Royal Ballet School was the only way to go if you wanted a career in dance but now there are many options for non-boarders.

Every dancer has unique feet with a varying length, shape, arch, flexibility, extension and strength; consequently, most pointe shoe companies make more than one model of a shoe. Sometimes they are custom tailored for the best shoes. Occasionally ballerinas can go through more than one pair in one performance. There are two main parts of a pointe shoe:

- The box - the front end of the shoe that supports the dancer's toes.
- The shank - rigid material to stiffen the sole to support the arch for going en pointe.

Language

Title using a ?

Introductory or

Features inform
(chronological

Diagrams/illu.

Technical wor

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Formal vocabu

Colons

Concluding pa

W pointe shoes are beautiful and (for me) the best
allet! They take a lot of care, eg. rosin for non-slip;
etc; complex ribbon tying; box breaking etc. but become
orth it when you are on pointe. The conclusion
that pointe work is awesome and you should love it!
pu liked my text and that you now are a pointe shoe fan!

Language

Title using a 'He

Introductory op

Features inform
(chronological c

Diagrams/illust

Technical word

Passive voice

Time adverbials

Cohesive advert

Cause and effect

Rhetorical quest

Qualifying word

Formal vocabul

Colons

Concluding par

Tuesday

L.O: To use cause and effect conjunctions

Fluency of skills - 3 Use conjunctions for contractions

In these sentences could you use a contracted apostrophe to make them and write the contractions below.

When I put on my swimming kit.

Tuesday - Fluency of skills - 5 Accurately spell prefixes

Insert a prefix before the underlined root words to make the sentences make sense.

- The builders had to do a quick design when it was clear the windows didn't fit.
- A completely new species of bear had been covered only recently.
- The lorry was so big it took a long time to take.

Tuesday - Fluency of Levels of formal

Replace the underlined words with a more formal word.
After a tiring day, Rosie curled up on the sofa.

Watch this video of how a toaster works...



Which features did you notice?

Model explaining how a toaster works using the features:

because	now that
since	so
even though	yet
as	accordingly
consequently	
therefore	
hence	
as a result	

It doesn't have to be true!

Language Features

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Pick one of the images and don't tell your partner.

Using the features, explain how it works.

Make sure to include causal conjunctions in your explanations.

Can your partner guess what you're describing?



Using your knowledge of the features of explanation texts, can you edit and uplevel this?

How rocket shoes work.



We invented rocket shoes to make walking safer and more fun.

Each shoe has six rockets on the bottom. They switch on when you put them on because your big toe touches the switch.

The rockets are solar-powered so leave the shoes outside the front door to recharge.

When the rockets are fully charged you can jump over cars and houses. A charge lasts about 3 hours.

Rocket shoes make crossing roads much safer. They are great for kids and elderly people. They save energy.

Wednesday

L.O: To express cause and effect using adverbials.

Fluency of skills - 3

Contractions

Write a contraction:

Wednesday - Fluency of skills

Dashes

Tick the sentence that uses a dash correctly.

Dad found his wallet - it was in his coat pocket.

Dad found - his wallet it was in his coat pocket.

Dad found his wallet it was in his coat pocket.

Wednesday - Fluency of skills - 5

Adverbs for possibility

Underline the adverbs of possibility.

- James has probably got the biggest collection of video games in the school.
- Don't bother running after her - she's almost certainly gone.
- Undoubtedly, she is the best hockey player in the world.

Causal conjunctions are used to explain how things work or why things happen.

I got soaking wet in the rain **because** I didn't have my umbrella with me.



I didn't have breakfast today, **so** I am really hungry now!



I am about to walk the dog **hence** my casual clothes and wellingtons.



Discuss different types:

Causal conjunctions can be:

**Subordinating
conjunctions**

because
since
even though
as
now that

**Coordinating
conjunctions**

so
yet

**Adverbs/
Adverbials**

accordingly
consequently
therefore
hence
as a result

Causal conjunctions link clauses and can be used in the middle of a sentence.

My watch is not broken **even though** I dropped it onto the floor.



I don't enjoy TV, **so** I have chosen to read tonight.



Causal conjunctions can also be used at the beginning of a sentence to refer to the sentence before.

I dropped my watch on the floor. **Consequently**, it is broken.

Andy broke his leg recently. **Accordingly**, he is unable to ski at the moment.

The school heating is not working. **As a result of this**, the building is closed today.



Model writing
sentences using causal
conjunctions at the
beginning and in the
middle of sentences...

Causal conjunctions can be:

**Subordinating
conjunctions**

because
since
even though
as
now that

**Coordinating
conjunctions**

so
yet

**Adverbs/
Adverbial**

accordingly
consequently
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Discuss punctuation

Causal conjunctions can be:

Subordinating conjunctions

because
since
even though
as
now that

Coordinating conjunctions

so
yet

Adverbs/ Adverbials

accordingly
consequently
therefore
hence
as a result



Choose an image and write an explanation for how it works using cause and effect adverbials.

Underline the cause and effect adverbial that you have used.

Remember, it doesn't have to be true

Share your sentences with a partner.

Can they suggest any improvements?

Edit with an editing pen!


Punctuation Challenge

() – for parenthesis

Thursday

L.O: To use the active and passive voice to vary the focus of my sentences.

Thursday - Fluency of skills - 3 How to punctuate direct speech

Do you add the punctuation to the direct speech?


Do you want it any higher asked the retaker.

Thursday - Fluency of skill Dashes

Write a sentence of your own, using dashes correctly.

Thursday - Fluency of skills - 5 Adverbs for possibility

i. Rank these statements in order from the most certain to the least certain –

- a) It's probably hard to do.
- b) It's undoubtedly hard to do.
- c) It's clearly hard to do.
- d) It's possibly hard to do.

Label:

subject

verb

object

1. Emma writes up to ten letters a day.
2. The lion enthusiastically gobbles his meat.
3. Mermaids often sing the most melodious and beautiful tunes.

Using the Passive Voice to Affect the Presentation of a Sentence

In a passive sentence, the 'thing' that would normally be the object is turned into the subject by the use of the verb.

Passive sentences use an auxiliary verb followed by a past participle verb form.

Model converting these active sentences into passive sentences...

1. Emma writes up to ten letters a day.
2. The lion enthusiastically gobbles his meat.
3. Mermaids often sing the most melodious and beautiful tunes.

Model...



Active voice:

Passive voice:

Model...



Active voice:

Passive voice:

Choose an image.

Cut it out.

Stick it into your book.

Write an explanation sentence in the active voice.

Then, reorder your subject, verb and object and rewrite your sentence in the passive voice.

Year 5

Use some
parenthesis and
some modal verbs.

Year 6

Use some parenthesis,
modal verbs and
prepositional phrases.

Monday

L.O: To begin to use paragraphs to group ideas together. (3)

L.O: To build cohesion within a paragraph. (5)

L.O: To build cohesion within and across paragraphs. (6)

Monday - Fluency of skills - 5

Adverbs for possibility

Write a sentence of your own, using an adverb for

Monday - Fluency

Synonyms as a co

Suggest a **synonym** for the underlined word.

- a) Jess couldn't wait to **get** her new bike from the shop.
- b) The radio programme was **due** to begin at 7pm.
- c) I felt very **snug** relaxing on the sofa.

Monday - Fluency of skills - 3

Commas in lists

Write a sentence that includes a list. Make sure you use commas!

Discuss...

Adverbials for Cohesion

time, place, number, exception, cause and effect, contrast or comparison, clarification and emphasis or addition

Adverbials are words or phrases that are used to modify a verb or clause. Adverbials may be adverbs, preposition phrases or subordinate clauses. Adverbials can be used to create cohesion within and across paragraphs.

time

in the beginning
only yesterday
until then
to begin with
at first
meanwhile
simultaneously
after that
straight away
presently

place

near this location
around here
in the city
behind the clouds
beyond the wall
inside the cave
out in the countryside
along the lane
here in this room
over the street

number/frequency

firstly
secondly
lastly
once
twice
occasionally
rarely
every so often
often
sometimes

exception

despite this
aside from
despite
excluding
even though
other than
with the exception of
apart from
however
besides

cause and effect

as a result
for this reason
subsequently
hence
as a consequence
due to
therefore
so as to
because of this
consequently

contrast/comparison

on the other hand
alternatively
similarly
nevertheless
in contrast
rather than
compared with
on the contrary
in comparison
however

clarification

in fact
in other words
to clarify
above all
the main reason for this
for instance
in essence
to summarise
to illustrate this
in conclusion

emphasis/addition

to clarify
most importantly
especially
primarily
furthermore
above all else
as well as
in addition to this
also
moreover

Highlight the words/phrase which have been repeated to create cohesion in blue in the passage below.

Underline the adverbials which have been used to create cohesion in the passage below.

Jasper looked up at the sky and a sense of panic began to set in. It would soon be dark and he was not home. The streetlamps flickered above his head, threatening to light; the darkness was looming menacingly.

Only yesterday he had promised to avoid the blackness of night. Only yesterday he had promised to never get caught. Yet here he was, out in the street with the blackness poised ready to envelop him.

It arrived. The promise was broken and Jasper felt the changes begin.

In the beginning, Jasper did not worry about being seen. In fact, he actually wanted to be seen. He made him laugh to see the shock on people's faces, but things were different now...

As a consequence of his own recklessness none of his kind were permitted to change in the open. They had to be back by nightfall.

Adverbials for Cohesion

time, place, number, exception, cause and effect, contrast or comparison, clarification and emphasis or addition

Adverbials are words or phrases that are used to modify a verb or clause. Adverbials may be adverbs, preposition phrases or subordinate clauses. Adverbials can be used to create cohesion within and across paragraphs.

time

in the beginning
only yesterday
until then
to begin with
at first
meanwhile
simultaneously
after that
straight away
presently

place

near this location
around here
in the city
behind the clouds
beyond the wall
inside the cave
out in the countryside
along the lane
here in this room
over the street

number/frequency

firstly
secondly
lastly
once
twice
occasionally
rarely
every so often
often
sometimes

exception

despite this
aside from
despite
excluding
even though
other than
with the exception of
apart from
however
besides

cause and effect

as a result
for this reason
subsequently
hence
as a consequence
due to
therefore
so as to
because of this
consequently

contrast/comparison

on the other hand
alternatively
similarly
nevertheless
in contrast
rather than
compared with
on the contrary
in comparison
however

clarification

in fact
in other words
to clarify
above all
the main reason for this
for instance
in essence
to summarise
to illustrate this
in conclusion

emphasis/addition

to clarify
most importantly
especially
primarily
furthermore
above all else
as well as
in addition to this
also
moreover

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Group your sentences into paragraphs.



Think of sub-headings for the paragraphs that you have created.

Read your sentences and sort them into paragraphs.

Then, uplevel the sentences to include c adverbials.

CHALLENGE: parenthesis, relative clau.

Share your paragraphs with a partner.

Can they find your adverbials?

Underline them in purple pen!

Tuesday

L.O: To express cause using conjunctions. (3)

L.O: To use subordinating conjunctions to develop explanations (5, 6)

Tuesday - Fluency of skills - 3
Indicate degrees of possibility

Circle the preposition that tells the relationship
between the Café and the

Tuesday - Fluency of skills - 4
Indicate degrees of possibility

Complete the sentence below so that it makes sense.

She knows that

We don't want her to know about

Tuesday - Fluency of skills - 6
Synonyms and antonyms

Word	Synonym	
marvellous		
achieve		
harass		
exaggerate		
disastrous		

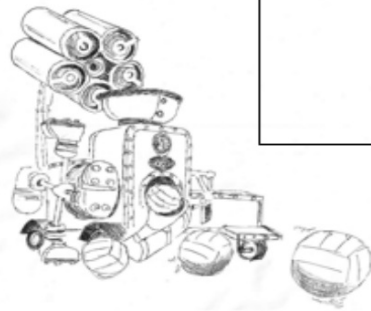
Watch this and note down any technical vocabulary related to the contraption...



Quickly plan the main body of an explanation on the Soccamatic...



Functionality - how it works.



Common faults

Safety requirements

Incl
bullet
bracke
dashe
parent

Find Faults

The Knittomatic

The Knittomatic is a big machine. It knits things. But how does it work

It works like this. You pull a handle and it turns on. Then you get a sheep and put it on the conveyor belt. Then it takes the wool off the sheep. Then it makes wool. Then it knits the wool into a jumper.

It has loads of buttons that all do different things. The best one is the auto shaver.

It might make too many bubbles.

You have to check that the sheep don't get cut when they are shaved.

Praise It!

Language Features (year 6)

Colons	
Qualifying words and phrases (especially, severely, slightly healthier)	
Synonyms to avoid repetition	
Cohesion between paragraphs (After this, what all this means is...)	

Praise It!

How does The Knittomatic Machine work?

The Knittomatic Machine, which was invented by the incredibly talented Wallace, is an extremely innovative device. Using the finest sheep, its three components work together to create a variety of knitted garments. How does this pioneering contraption function though?

During the first stage of the knitting process, sheep enter the input where they are thoroughly washed. This involves rotating buffers and vibrating sponges, which work simultaneously to ensure all dirt is removed from the wool. As a result, the wool is of premium quality ready for the next phase of the procedure. The industrial strength buffers emit powerful gusts of warm air. Consequently the sheep are dry and ready for shearing. Mechanical blades then carefully slice through silky soft wool. The reason scissors are not used to slice the wool is because the blades are made out of state-of-the-art titanium, ensuring a clean cut is made. Finally, large knitting needles weave the yarn, resulting in delicate lengths of the finest wool being created.

On the rare occasion that the 'Shaving Dial' malfunctions, it is possible that sheep may experience a shave too close for comfort! Therefore, sheep may suffer minor injuries and require medical attention.

It is essential that all Knittomatic users wear safety goggles in order to protect their eyes from potential damage. Also, all loose hair must be contained due to the fact that it may become entangled in the machine.

Write the main body of your Soccamatic explanation text.

ctions	

Cause and effect conjunctions	
Subordinate conjunctions	
Cohesive adverbials	
Passive voice	

Cause and effect conjunctions
Subordinate conjunctions
Cohesive adverbials
Synonyms for cohesion
Passive voice
Colon

Progress tips!

Year 5 causal conjunctions:

Consequently

As a result

Therefore

This results in...

This causes...

The reason... is because...

Year 5 conjunctions:

because

if

when

although

Year 5 punctuation:

? ! , ;

Powerful present tense verbs:

wrench (pull)

dispenses

emerges

glides

rotates

revolves

spins

drives

Edit and improve your writing.

Can you include a semi-colon?

Wednesday

L.O: To write succinct sentences in the context of an introductory paragraph.

Wednesday - Fluency of skills - 3

Indicate cause using prepositions and conjunctions

Tick to show if the word is a preposition or a conjunction.

Preposition	Conjunction

Wednesday - Fluency of skills -

Indicate degrees of possibility using modal verbs

Write a sentence of your own, using a modal verb

Wednesday - Fluency of skills -

Cohesion across paragraphs

Read the paragraph below and decide which of the three options is the original paragraph.

There was an old air raid shelter in the back garden which had been held in complete secret. The children had taken it in turn to use it next to the right one.

- a) They had loved that old shelter.
- b) They love that old shelter.
- c) They loved that old shelter.
- d) They will love that old shelter.

What's the purpose of an introductory paragraph in an explanation text?

How Do Materials Change State?

Materials are made of tiny molecules (also known as particles) and can exist in three forms, which we classify as solids, liquids and gases. In scientific terms, these are called the three **states of matter**. Varying the temperature or pressure of a material's surroundings affects its state.

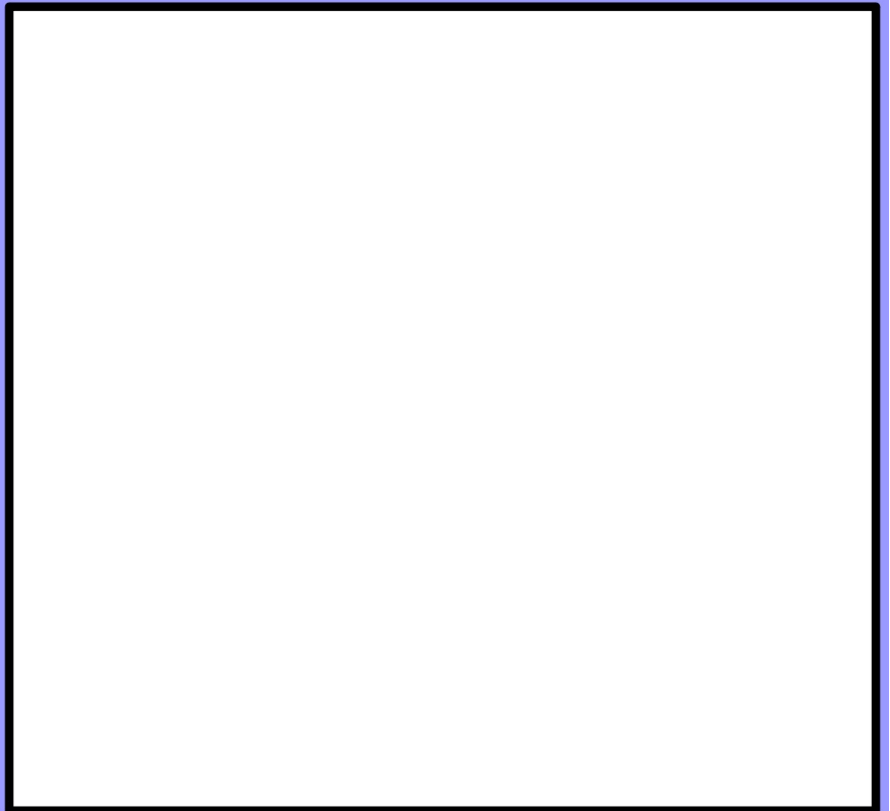
How Can the Snoozatron Help You Sleep?

When Wallace is struggling to sleep, he activates his 'Snoozatron' device. This remarkable contraption will help any insomniac inventor return swiftly to the land of nod. Would you like to know how it works? Then read on...

Model an introductory paragraph for an explanation text about Wallace's Tellyscope..

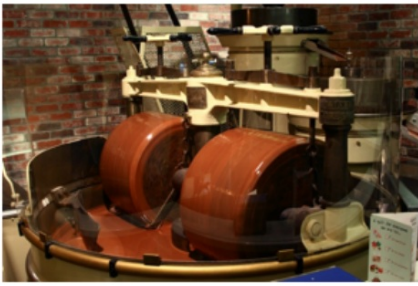


- How/Why Title
- General statement
- Brief description
- End with a ?
- Get the reader's attention

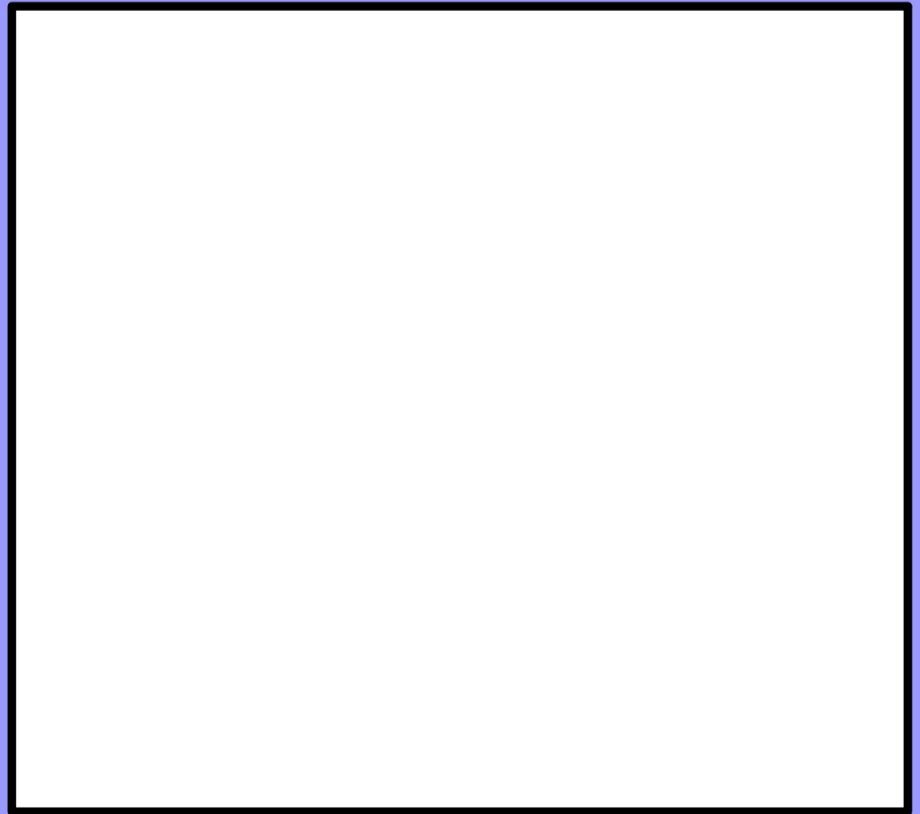


Model an introductory paragraph for an explanation text...

Hot Chocolate Machine



- *How/Why Title*
- *General statement*
- *Brief description*
- *End with a ?*
- *Get the reader's attention*



Choose an image, cut it out and write an introductory paragraph on it.

- How/Why Title
- General statement
- Brief description
- End with a ?
- Get the reader's attention

CHALLENGE:

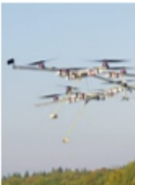
Include parenthesis (using brackets, dashes or commas) in your introductory paragraphs!

Try including a relative clause by beginning your parenthesis with which, who or that.

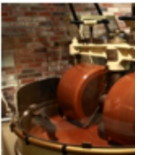
Time Machine



Flying Machine



Hot Chocolate Machine



Invisibility Machine



Thursday

L.O: To use precise vocabulary to develop explanation.

Thursday - Fluency of skills - 5

Relative clauses

Look at the article below. **Underline the relative clauses.**

Summer is finally here

Weather forecasters have confirmed that summer, which is here to stay. According to a weather reporter for the Weather Channel, summer will stay high until the end of the month.

Thursday - Fluency of skills

Clause structures

Underline the subordinate clause in this sentence.

I don't need a school dinner today because I have

y - Fluency of skills - 3

Use of preposition and cause using preposition

Write a sentence, including a preposition:

Revise glossary rules, using a dictionary etc...

Bridges and structures vocabulary

- Abutments
- Anchorage
- Arch bridge
- Beam
- Beam bridge
- Brace
- Buckle
- Cable
- Cantilever
- Cantilever bridge
- Chain
- Column
- Deck
- Load
- Pillar
- Rigid
- Stable
- Suspension bridge
- Tower
- Truss
- Unstable

*Create a glossary of technical
vocabulary related to bridges!*

Monday

L.O: To plan an explanation text.

Monday - Fluency of skills - 3

Use headings and subheadings

last

ty years, Blagborough Town Football Club can finally call
of the Year'. A thrillingly clos
ory for our local team.

l Ant Trainer, coach for the c
m so proud of my team."

Monday - Fluency of skills

Prefixes and suffixes

The sentence below contains a suffix error. **Underline the error** a
box below.

In a panic, Lucy tried to activify the fire alarm.

Monday - Fluency of :

Verbs tenses consistently a

The sentence below has an error. **Circle the error** a

We wasn't very happy being stuck in the traff

You will be writing an
explanation text to explain how
bridges work!

Plan..

Introduction

Question

Types of bridge



Design and
functionality
(how they
work):

Famous bridges
around the world

Tuesday and Wednesday

Writing genre: Non-fiction
Explanation Texts

Assessed Independent Writing

My Checklist:

How do roller coasters work?

The world's first roller coaster, which was the brain child of the innovative, creative American inventor LaMarcus Thompson, was built in 1884. Travelling at approximately 6 miles per hour on a rickety wooden track, it paved the way for the creation of the world's most exhilarating roller coaster rides. But how do roller coasters actually work?

Thursday

L.O: To edit my writing for precision, clarity and impact.

Thursday - Fluency of skills - 3
Use the present perfect form of the verb

Use the verb below to use the **present perfect form of the verb**.

to bake

the chocolate

Thursday - Fluency of skills - 5
Dashes for parenthesis

The sentence below is missing parenthesis. **Add a pair of dashes** so that the sentence is punctuated correctly.

The fete or at least the outdoor part has been cancelled because of the weather.

Thursday - Fluency of
Verb tenses consistently a

Complete the sentence below using the present perfect form of the verb.

He is sure that he

↑
to see