

Features of Explanations

Structure & Layout:

- **Clear title** -often in the form of a question
- **Introduction** – offers a brief background to the topic
- **Paragraphs** – clear series of paragraphs under subheadings
- **Organisational features** (subheadings, bullet points, boxes etc.)
- **Diagrams** with labels
- **Summary** at the end to bring the piece to a close
- **Glossary** of technical terms

Purpose:

- To explain how something works or why something happens. It can describe a process.

Language:

- Present tense
- Third person (usually)
- Technical vocabulary
- Often impersonal language
- Time adverbs/conjunctions for sequencing events (*now, next, afterwards*) to sequence events
- Causal conjunctions (because, so, as)