

Explanatory Writing: Structure & Cohesion

Organise a multi-paragraph explanation with purposeful structure, precise vocabulary, cohesive links and relevant examples.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Organise a multi-paragraph explanation with purposeful structure, precise vocabulary, cohesive links and relevant examples.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

- 1 Structure should match purpose: sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast or another useful pattern.

- 2 Cohesion comes from logical order, reference words, repeated key terms and well-chosen connectives.

- 3 Examples should clarify an idea rather than interrupt the explanation.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Select the best structure for four explanation topics.

Reorder a paragraph sequence to improve logic.

Repair unclear pronoun/reference chains.

Add a specific example to clarify an abstract statement.

Write a linking sentence that connects two paragraphs without repeating them.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Explain a process you know well to another person, then ask which step or connection was least clear.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a three-paragraph explanation with a labelled planning map and a final cohesion check.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Should every paragraph begin with the same connective?

2. What makes an example useful?

3. What does cohesion help a reader understand?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Explanatory Writing: Structure & Cohesion”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

No.

2. Suggested response

It directly clarifies the idea being explained.

3. Suggested response

How ideas and parts of the text connect.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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