

# Can I identify the features of an explanation text?

Year 4

Summer, Week 8

Lesson 1

# What is an explanation text?

An **explanation text** is a piece of non-fiction writing explaining an action process or event in a detailed but simple way. It can feature numbered or bullet points, adverbials of time and labelled pictures or diagrams to help the reader understand the process of what's being explained.

**This week, you will be writing an explanation text for a new mode of transport.**

# What features do you need to include in your explanation text?

Capital letters and full stops

Paragraphs

Subheadings

A wide range of conjunctions

Fronted adverbials with commas

Expanded noun phrases

Adverbs

Prepositions

**All of these features will ensure that your explanation text is successful**

Your task today is to read through an explanation text and spot some features. Follow the slides to complete this.

**How to Fly a Bubble Balloon** ← This is the TITLE

Can you imagine an exhilarating machine that is so exciting that it will make adrenaline pump through your veins? This brand new mode of transport is so unusual that everyone will stop and stare. This phenomenal contraption simply cannot be missed! Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel up amongst the clouds? Would you like to experience the gentle wind in your hair as you glide through the sky like a bird? Read this explanation text and find out all about how simple they are to fly!

**This is the opening paragraph or introduction.**

**This needs to be interesting so your reader wants to read on**

# Subheadings help to introduce each section

Parts ← This is a **SUBHEADING**

Bubble balloons can fly to incredible heights. The world record is over 21,000 metres. It can be challenging to breathe at that, so oxygen is needed from around 5,000 metres. In contrast to the cold temperatures of the skies, the temperature inside a bubble balloon is usually kept just below 120 degrees celsius. A bubble balloon contains a large woven basket, four steel gas tanks, a burner and the balloon (or bubble, as it is sometimes called).

**CAN YOU SPOT THE FRONTED ADVERBIALS? ANSWERS ON NEXT SLIDE**

# Did you manage to find it?

Bubble balloons can fly to incredible heights. The world record is over 21,000 metres. It can be challenging to breathe at that, so oxygen is needed from around 5,000 metres. **In contrast to the cold temperatures of the skies**, the temperature inside a bubble balloon is usually kept just below 120 degrees celsius. A bubble balloon contains a large woven basket, four steel gas tanks, a burner and the balloon (or bubble, as it is sometimes called).

# Some other features....

## Flight

Firstly, the aviator puts four poles into sockets located at the top of the basket. Then, they carefully place the burner on top of the poles. Next, she connects the cables to the burner frame and places the cables under the basket in order to hold everything together.

After this, they connect the hoses from the full gas tanks to the burner, which allows it to be tested.

Next, two people hold the mouth of the bubble open while it is filled with cold air from the fan. It takes two people because of its large size. This process is completed until the material becomes rounded and stretched.

These are called **ADVERBIALS OF TIME**  
These help tell the reader when something is happening

# What about **adverbs** and **prepositions**?

The most demanding task requires the lead aviator to crouch **on** the ground while partly inside the basket. They then need to **cautiously** turn the gas burner on and position the flame **into** the 'mouth' of the bubble. This is a hazardous process so it must be done **accurately**. As a result of the heat entering the bubble, it **gradually** rises up.

When the aviator is ready to set off, whilst standing **in** the basket, they heat up the air in the bubble by 20 degrees. The air in the bubble then becomes hot enough to get the balloon to rise **off** the ground. The aviator can control how high the balloon elevates by increasing or decreasing the pressure of the flames.

When ready to land, the aviator **gradually** reduces the strength of the flames. This causes the bubble to deflate and eventually it reaches ground once more.

**Remember: Adverbs describe the action.** Julian **carefully** stood in the basket.

**Prepositions are words that tell you where or when something is in relation to something else. Examples include after, before, on, under, inside and outside.**



# The closing paragraph or conclusion

## Is it for you?

Are you excited? Do you feel like you could have a go? If you are fascinated by escalating heights, if you see yourself as a bit of a daredevil, then why not have a go yourself at flying bubble balloons. **Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.**

This is where you ask questions and ensure that you link back to your Introduction.

The sentence in bold is showing important additional information.