Can I identify the features of an explanation text?

Year 5
Summer, Week 8
Lesson 1

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

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 of diagrams to help the reader understand the process of what's being explained.

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

Capital letters and full stops correctly
Paragraphs
Expanded noun phrases
Bullet points consistently
Sub headings
Commas for clarity
Conjunctions and adverbials of time for cohesion
Relative clauses
The perfect form of verbs

Modal verbs
Parenthesis ( ) - - , ,
Semi colons, colons or dashes to mark clauses
Colons to introduce a list
Hyphens

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.

This is the TITLE and will often have the words HOW or WHY

How to Fly a Bubble Balloon

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 is where you ask questions that will encourage your reader to want to read on. Can you find them? Answers on the next slide.

Where are the questions?
Answers

How to Fly a Bubble Balloon

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Subheadings - help to introduce each section

Components ← **This is a SUBHEADING**

Bubble balloons can fly to incredible heights: the world record is over 21,000 metres (68,900 feet). It can be challenging to breathe at that , so oxygen is needed from around 5,000 metres (16,400 feet). In contrast to the cold temperatures of the skies, the temperature inside a bubble balloon is usually kept just below 120 degrees Celsius (248 Fahrenheit). A bubble balloon comprises a large woven basket, four tempered steel gas tanks, a burner and the balloon (or bubble, as it is often referred to).

What other features from the Year 5 Objectives list can you spot?

Answers on next slide

What did you spot?

Colon to separate clauses.
Description: detaill

Components

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Parenthesis

Fronted adverbial

Adverbials of time These help tell the reader when something is happening

Flight

Firstly, the aviator puts four nylon 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 - the cables also go under the basket in order to hold everything together.

After this, she connects the hoses from the full gas tanks to the burner – this allows it to be tested.

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

Can you spot the adverbs and prepositions

Adverbs (words that describe the action) Prepositions (words that tell you where or when something is in relation to something else. Examples include after, before, on, under, inside and outside.

The most demanding task requires the lead aviator to crouch on the ground (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 subsequently 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.

Answers on the next slide

Did you find the adverbs and prepositions?

The most demanding task requires the lead aviator to crouch **on** the ground (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.

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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**.

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. Asking questions helps to plant a seed in the reader's mind and reminds them why, in this case, flying a bubble balloon could be an amazing experience.