

READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

USING TEXT STRUCTURES

This presentation is based on a presentation done by Laura Bercovitz at the Adult Learning Resource Center.

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EXPOSITORY TEXT STRUCTURES

Description
Sequence
Cause and Effect
Compare and Contrast

Description Text Structure

- Used to organize information about a topic such as
 - an idea
 - a person
 - a place
 - a thing
- By the author listing characteristics, features and/or examples

Signal Words for Description

- for instance
- specifically
- in particular
- in addition
- for example
- one way
- the characteristics are....
- to illustrate
- most important
- another
- furthermore
- also

DESCRIPTION TEXT STRUCTURE QUESTIONS

- What topic is being described?
- How is the topic described?
- What are the most important attributes of characteristics?

Description Text Structure

- Character clowns perform as different personalities. The most famous character clown is the tramp. Specifically, tramp clowns wear a unique style of makeup and costumes that are torn or shabby. Some clown tramps are happy-go-lucky. Others are extremely sad. Still others act like gentlemen who just happen to be out of money.

SEQUENCE TEXT STRUCTURE

- Best used when the author:
 - Describes the order of events or how to do or make something
 - List items or event in numerical order or chronological order

SIGNAL WORDS FOR SEQUENCE

- first
- initially
- next
- last
- second
- another
- then
- additionally
- before
- after
- as soon as
- finally

SEQUENCE TEXT STRUCTURE QUESTIONS

- What is the sequence of events being described? What are the major events that occur?
- What are the steps, directions, or procedures to follow?

SEQUENCE TEXT STRUCTURE

- My family and I went to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The first thing we did when we got there was to take a tour of the space shuttle that once flew into space. During our tour, an astronaut showed us her spacesuit. I even go to try on the space boots. Next, we tasted the food astronauts eat while they are in space. It was really different from other foods that I had eaten, but it tasted pretty good. Finally, we got in a special booth that showed us what it is like to be weightless! It was an amazing day.

CAUSE and EFFECT TEXT STRUCTURE

- The author is explaining why or how something happened, exists, or works by listing one or more causes or event and the resulting consequences or effect(s).
- EFFECT = What happened?
- CAUSE = What made it happen?

SIGNAL WORDS FOR CAUSE and EFFECT

- consequently
- therefore
- as a result
- since
- the reasons why....
- because of
- thereby
- may be due to
- in order to

CAUSE and EFFECT QUESTIONS

- What happened?
- Why did it happen? What was the reason for...?
- What was the effect(s) of the event?
- What happened as a result of ...?

CAUSE and EFFECT

- **What happened? (effect)**
- **What made it happen? (cause)**
- Though frogs are still around, they are no longer as common in some areas as they were a few decades ago. The growing use of insecticides has reduced their numbers. The chemical sprays usually do not harm toads, but cut down the animal's food supply. Thereby, the frogs do not have enough food to survive. There are fewer toads in many areas populated by humans.

COMPARE and CONTRAST TEXT STRUCTURE

- The author explains how two or more things are **alike** and/or how they are **different**.

SIGNAL WORDS FOR COMPARE and CONTRAST

- however
- unlike
- like
- similar to
- different from
- in comparison
- whereas
- in contrast
- on the other hand
- as well as
- Equal to

QUESTIONS FOR COMPARE and CONTRAST TEXT

- What is being compared?
- What is it about these things that are being compared?
- What characteristics do they have in common? How are these items alike?
- In what way are they different?

COMPARE and CONTRAST

- The two most popular sports played at Ericson School are basketball and volleyball. Both take place inside the gym at the school. Also, each sport has two teams of people. In basketball, however, the ball can be played off the floor, but in volleyball the ball cannot touch the floor or it is out of play. Basketball and volleyball are popular sports at Ericson.

The goal is for learners to internalize knowledge about how text is organized and use it to pull information from what they are reading. Therefore, they will better understand what is being read.

The End