

English 2.2.21

26 January 2021 11:14

TBQ: Can I identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning?

This week we will be writing an information text (non-chronological report) about Darwin and his *Theory of Evolution*, which ties in with topic.

First of all we will need to read and start to understand some of the features of an information text.

Watch the video below to learn about non-chronological reports and their features:

As you watch make notes of the features that you may need find when you annotate the article.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/to-analyse-the-features-of-a-non-chronological-report-6cv3ar?step=1&activity=video>

Here is some more information about the features of information texts. You can use this also as a checklist to help you identify some of the features.



One of the last dinosaurs to roam the continent of Pangea, the Huddosaurus species – tall, spike-covered creatures with a taste for mammal flesh – were some of the most vicious creatures to ever walk our planet.



Diet

The hunt for food and feeding is considered by many modern palaeontologists to have been the most time-consuming element of the Huddosaurus' day. The majority of male Huddosaurus would spend up to fourteen hours a day eating; a small minority would have gorged for over twenty hours of the day! These long-necked carnivores would journey for miles to find their favourite food: the agile zuruck (a creature so rare that it could only be found during the last weeks of winter). If the Huddosaurus were unable to find its

prized zuruck meat, it would have regurgitated its stomach contents from its last feeding to satisfy itself once more or simply engulf any other living creature nearby.

Habitat

These fascinating creatures had no permanent home as they were always on the move looking for their next meal. According to palaeontologists, digs have shown that these wondrous beasts roamed as far north as the Ice Plains of Myrr and as far south as the Boiling Deserts of Umbrah. Wherever they did decide to settle for the night, it is believed that these creatures slept with one cautious eye constantly open to avoid malicious attacks from other creatures.

Appearance

Long necks, which were covered in moss-green scales, and rounded shoulders are recognised by experts as the most identifiable physical traits of these ferocious creatures. At the base of their neck, a large, rotund torso with four muscular legs attached completed the main body of the dinosaur. Its large tail had numerous ivory-coloured spikes attached to it: the dinosaur's secondary attack weapon after its razor-sharp teeth. Skeletal remains have revealed that the Huddosaurus dinosaurs had three rows of teeth: each row was designed to rip, tear or grind their prey into a liquid form.

So, if you're ever tucking into a juicy zuruck burger, remember that juicy meat was once sought after by the gargantuan Huddosaurus – the most vicious creature to ever cross our lands.

Chilli Challenge:

Mild - look at the annotated text and identify the features.

Complete the table below:

The first one (parenthesis) has been done for you.

Feature	Example
Parenthesis	- tall, spike-covered creatures with a taste for mammal flesh -

*The class teacher will add the annotated text for those children who would normally occasionally choose mild within class. Everyone should attempt hot.

Hot and Flaming Hot - Using the information you learn on the video try to identify as many features in text as you can and annotate (highlight AND label them) them.

Hint - you are looking for language features as well as presentational features.

Use the checklists below to help you.

Presentational Features /Structural Features /Layout

Report writing needs

Purpose

- to provide **factual** information
- to **organise** the facts so they are easy to access and understand
- to **interest** the reader.

The **genre** of text can also affect the purpose.

- a **title** that draws the reader in
- **introductory paragraph** defining the subject matter
- a clear **layout** (e.g. sections, paragraphs) showing how information is organised
- perhaps 'structural signposts' (e.g. subheadings, boxes)
- **paragraphs** that open with a **topic sentence** A topic sentence sums up what the paragraph is about.
- maybe labelled **picture(s)** or **diagram(s)**
- a satisfactory **conclusion** (e.g. a neatly-composed final sentence).

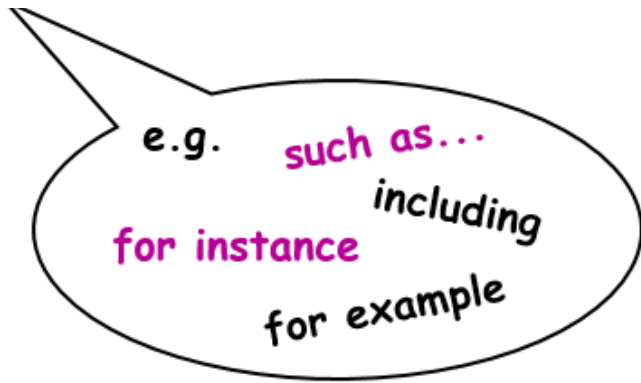
Language Features

Report language features

- **present tense verbs** (except historical reports)
- **factual, impersonal style**
- **clear, factual description**
- **examples** where appropriate

- **third person**
- occasional use of **passive**
- statements based on **fact**, not value judgements.

- generalised language
- technical vocabulary
- 'structural signposts', such as subheadings.

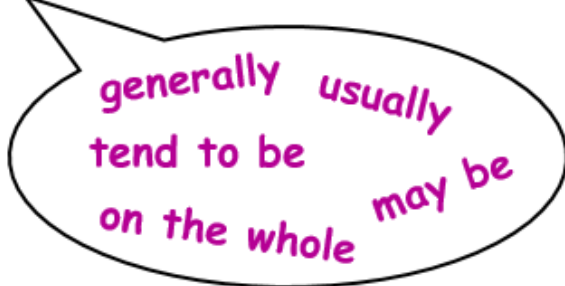


Generalised language

Most reports are general, and writing is in

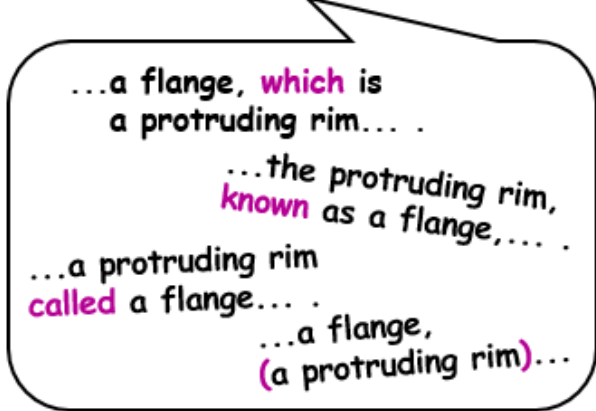
- the plural, e.g. *Snails have a protective shell.*
- the 'generalised singular', e.g. *The snail's shell protects its body.*

To cover exceptions, use 'weasel words'. e.g.



Technical vocabulary

Most reports involve technical vocabulary, which may need defining, e.g.



If there are many words to be defined, you could include a glossary.