

Tips for Writing

Explanation



Explanation



Purpose

Tells us how something works or gives us information about something.



Explanation Text example

How Paper Is Recycled

Paper that has been used can be recycled.

First, people put used paper into special bins. Then, council workers take the paper to a recycling factory.

At the recycling factory, workers sort and shred the paper.

Next, machines mix the shredded paper with boiling water and chemicals to make a pulp.

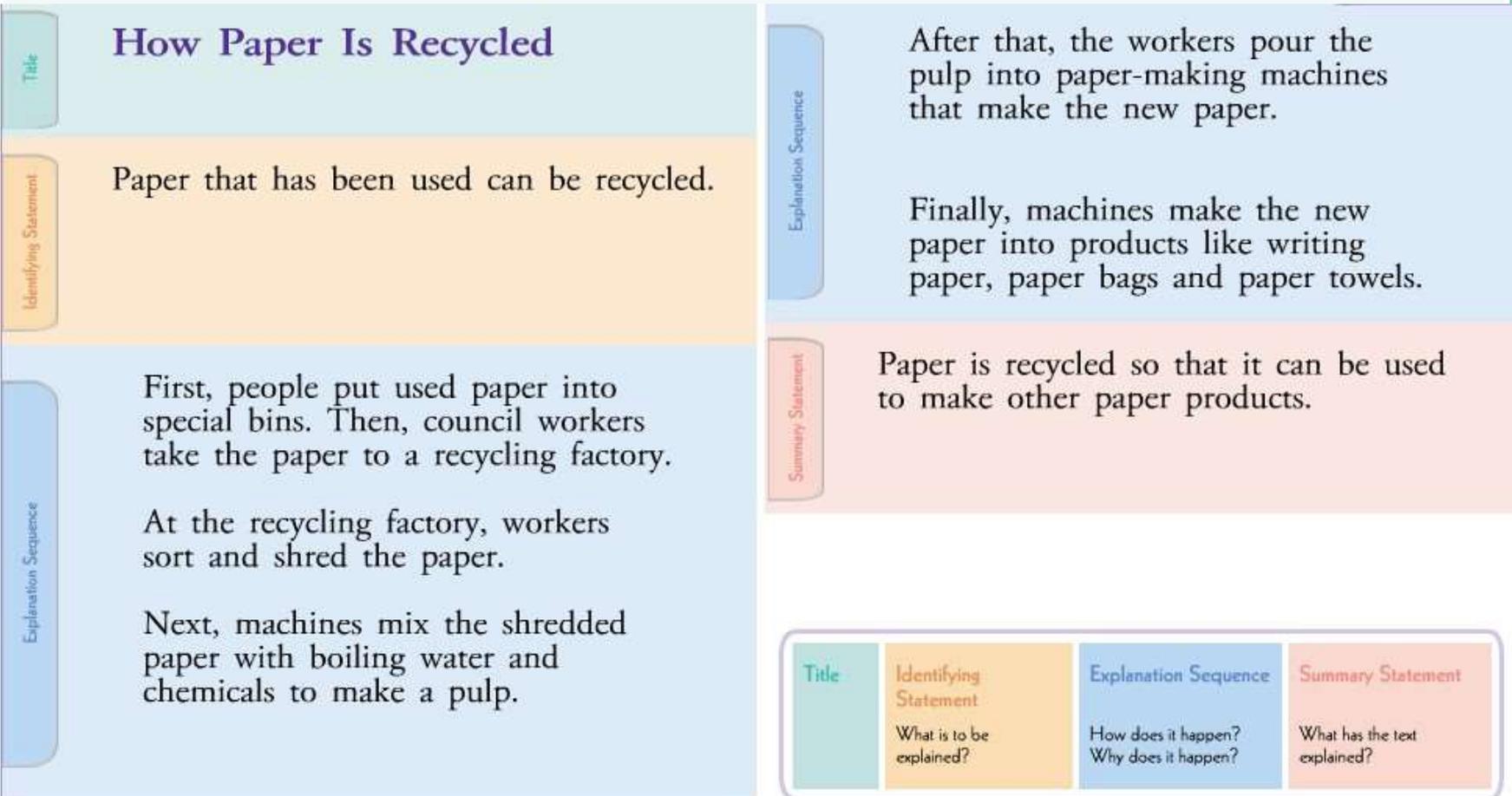
After that, the workers pour the pulp into paper-making machines that make the new paper.

Finally, machines make the new paper into products like writing paper, paper bags and paper towels.

Paper is recycled so that it can be used to make other paper products.



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The Explanation Sequence is organised in paragraphs. What do you notice about the sentence openers?

How Paper Is Recycled

Paper that has been used **can be** recycled.

First, people **put** used paper into special bins. Then, council workers **take** the paper to a recycling factory.

At the recycling factory, workers **sort** and **shred** the paper.

Next, machines **mix** the shredded paper with boiling water and chemicals to **make** a pulp.

After that, the workers **pour** the pulp into paper-making machines that **make** the new paper.

Finally, the machines **make** the new paper into products like writing paper, paper bags and paper towels.

Paper **is** recycled so that it **can be** used to **make** other paper products.

Look at the words highlighted in pink.
What do you notice?

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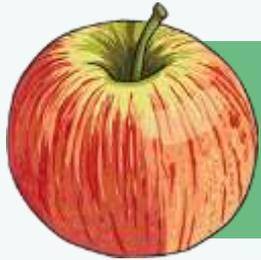
Look at the words highlighted in blue.
What do you notice?

Success Criteria

- include a title describing how or why something happens
 - begin with an opening paragraph which tells the reader about the theme or subject to be explained
 - write in the present tense and use topic vocabulary eg. Bees collect honey from pollen
 - write a few paragraphs to describe how something works or why it happens (you can use sub headings if you prefer)
 - write a final paragraph to sum up and round off the explanation
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Structure

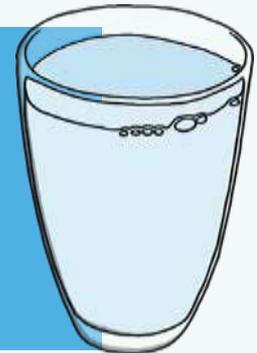
A general statement is used to introduce the topic of explanation.



There are lots of things we can do to stay healthy and to keep illnesses away.

A series of logical steps explaining how or why something occurs.

The best drinks for staying healthy are water and milk. Fruit juices can be good for us but they can have a lot of sugar in them. Fizzy drinks are not good for us at all.



Steps continue until the final state is produced or the explanation is complete.

Features

- **Title** – explains what the text is for
- **Opening Statement** – about the subject
- **Clear, simple points** about why or how something occurs
- **Technical words** – where appropriate
- **Conjunctions** – e.g. because, resulting in
- **Present tense**
- **Summary Paragraph**

Use a **clear title** that **indicates** what you are writing about.

Decide whether to use **diagrams, charts, illustrations** or **flow charts** to help explain.

Title and Introduction

Use the first paragraph to introduce the subject to the reader.

Try to make the title **intrigue** the reader.
Why do sloths hang about?

Using **how** or **why** in a title helps.



Your Task

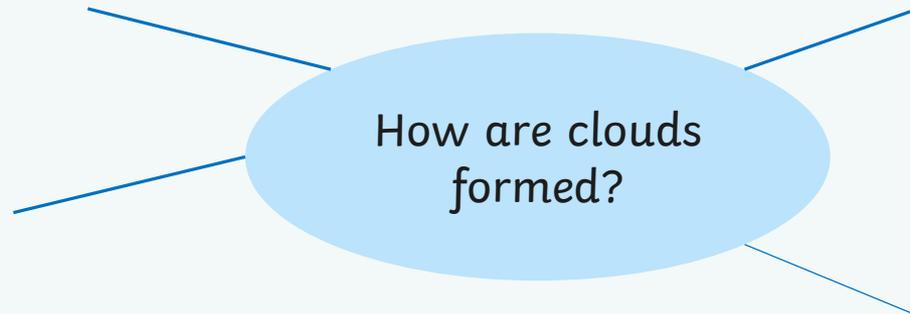
Watch the following video and make notes using the mind map strategy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCumUup9vWQ>



Write an explanation which tells the reader what clouds are and how clouds are formed.

Remember to refer back to the success criteria and your core writing targets before, during and after you have written your explanation.



Organise the writing and illustrations to explain:

- what you need
- how it works
- why it works
- when and where it works
- what it is used for
- add in extra, interesting information

Reread the explanation pretending that you know nothing about the subject. Does it make sense?

Finish by drawing all ideas together in a **concluding paragraph**.

Ending

If specialised terminology is used, a **glossary** may be needed. Or maybe you need a diagram or picture.

Relate the ending to what the text explained.