

Informational Text Structures

Text Structure	Definition	Signal Word Clues
Description	Information gives visual details	<i>For example, characteristics, such as, for instance, is like, including, to illustrate</i>
Problem/Solution	Information poses a problem and possible solution	<i>Problem is, if/then, the result, because, so that, question/answer, is resolved, to resolve</i>
Time/Order	Information presented in chronological order from beginning to end	<i>First, second, third, then, next, later, finally, after, now, as soon as, before, until, actual dates, began, began with</i>
Comparison/Contrast	Information shows how two or more items are alike and different	<i>Similarly, likewise, like, than, same as, just like, just as, as well as, both, similar to, is like that However, by contrast, yet, but, unlike, instead, nevertheless, on the other hand, although</i>
Cause/Effect	Information explains why something happened	<i>Since, because, for this reason, then, as a result, due to, so that, effects of, how to, leads/led to</i>

Text Examples

**Description**

Example: "The crocodile is the master of deception in the water. It stalks its prey and then swiftly closes in for the kill."

Problem/Solution

Example: One problem to resolve in crocodile watching is transportation. How can an observer get close enough to watch without scaring it away or being attacked?"

Time/Order

Example: Archaeologists have helped us to understand that the evolution of the crocodile began with..."

Comparison/Contrast

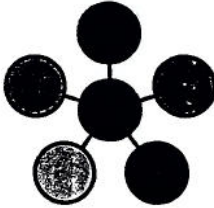

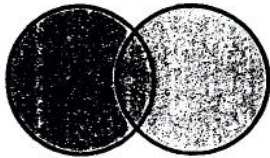
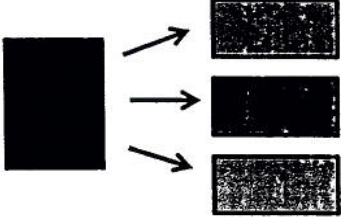
Example: The power of the crocodile is like that of a monstrous machine. With one lunge it can destroy its prey and protect the kill from other predators."

Cause/Effect

Example: We observed the crocodile as it stalked a raccoon moving through the moonlight toward the edge of the water. As a result of a noise we made, the raccoon bolted..."

From Revisit, Reflect, Retell by Linda Hoyt Heinemann

Non-Fiction Text Structures

	Signal Words	Visual
Description	for example, for instance, characteristics include, specifically, in addition	
Sequence & Order	before, in the beginning, to start, first, next, during, after, then, finally, last, in the middle, in the end	
Compare & Contrast	similar, alike, same, just like, both, different, unlike, in contrast, on the other hand	
Cause & Effect	since, because, if, due to, as a result of, so, then, leads to, consequently	
Problem & Solution	problem, issue, cause, since, consequently, therefore, as a result, because of, leads to, due to, solve, so, then	