



Understanding text structure

Identify and use text structure to understand how an informational text is organised

READING · YEAR 4 · 60 MIN



TODAY

What we will do

Identify and use text structure to understand how an informational text is organised

- 1 I can name at least two common text structures (for example, problem and solution, compare and contrast).
- 2 I can find signal words that show which structure a writer is using.
- 3 I can explain how the structure helps me understand what the text is about.
- 4 I can match a short passage to its text structure and give a reason why.

LOOK CLOSELY

What is different about how these two texts are set up?

One text compares kererū and tūi. One describes a problem with predators and a solution.



TALK Talk to your partner. 60 seconds.



KEY IDEA

Text Structure

tekst STRUK-chuh

The skeleton of a piece of writing. It is the plan a writer uses to organise ideas.

WHY IT MATTERS When you spot the structure, you understand the text faster.



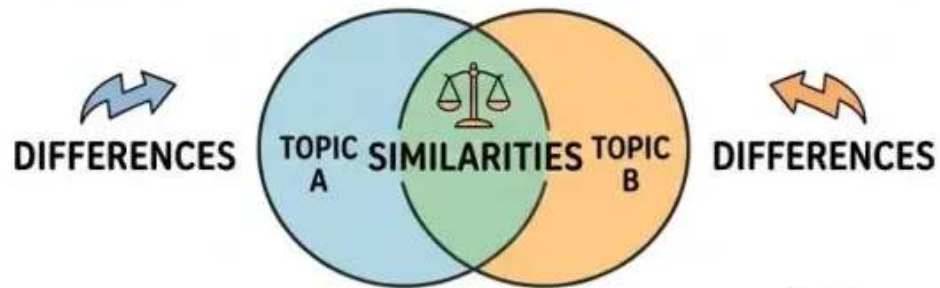
Compare and Contrast vs Problem and Solution

Each structure has its own purpose and its own signal words.



UNDERSTANDING TEXT STRUCTURES: COMPARE-CONTRAST vs. PROBLEM-SOLUTION

COMPARE-CONTRAST TEXT STRUCTURE



SIGNAL WORDS & PHRASES

- Similarly
- Likewise
- Both
- Also
- In common
- However
- But
- On the other hand
- While
- Unlike
- Different from
- Whereas

PROBLEM-SOLUTION TEXT STRUCTURE



SIGNAL WORDS & PHRASES

- Problem
- Issue
- Challenge
- Difficulty
- Dilemma
- Solution
- Answer
- Resolve
- Therefore
- Consequently
- As a result
- Because
- So

SIGNAL WORDS

Words that show the structure

Signal words are clues a writer leaves to show how the text is organised.



However / But

Compare and Contrast

Shows a difference or contrast between two ideas.

Similarly / Both

Compare and Contrast

Shows that two things share something in common.

Because / So

Problem and Solution

Links a problem to its cause or its solution.

As a result / Therefore

Problem and Solution

Shows what happened because of the problem or the fix.



HOW TO FIND THE STRUCTURE

Read, spot the signal word, name the structure

Find one signal word in the passage. That word tells you the structure the writer chose.



EXAMPLE

"Kererū eat fruit, but tūi prefer nectar." The word **BUT** signals compare and contrast.

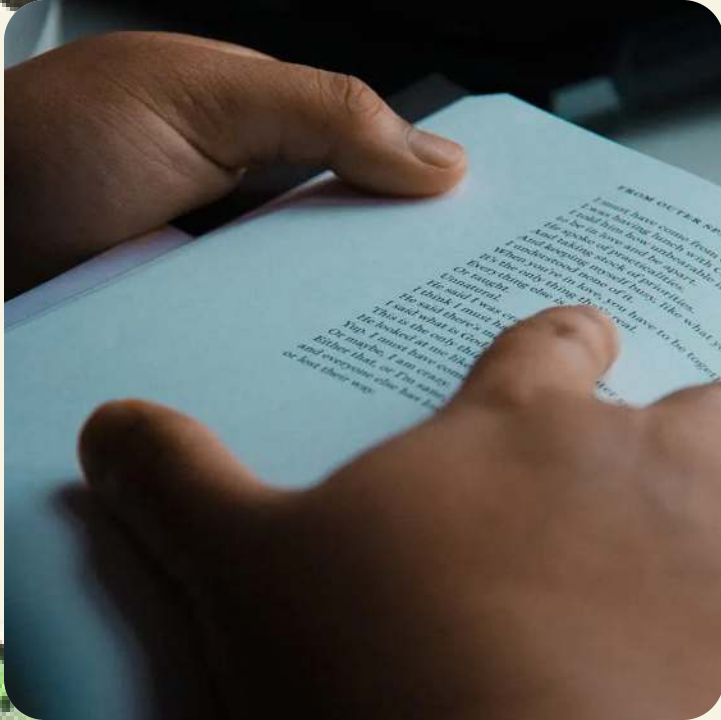
WATCH OUT

Some passages mix structures. Use the most common signal word to decide.



PRACTICE

The kākā passage: which structure is it?



What is the main problem in the passage?

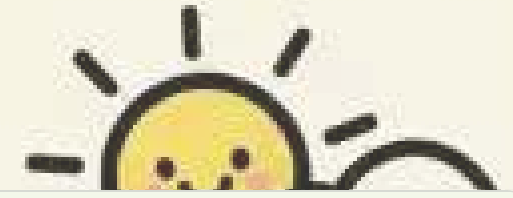
Can you find one signal word? What is it?

Thumbs up for problem and solution. Thumbs sideways for not sure.

How does the structure help you understand the text?

CLUE *Look for because or so in the kākā passage.*

Find the structure in your passage



Emerging

card sort

Sort signal word cards onto a two-column mat.

This word belongs in ___ because ___.

MATERIALS

signal word cards
sorting mat
short passages

Read one passage aloud with your teacher.

Developing

highlight and label

Read two passages, circle signal words, name each structure.

This text uses ___ structure because ___.

MATERIALS

two passages
highlighter
response sheet

Write one sentence explaining how structure helps you.

Extending

read, write, swap

Read two passages, name the structure, then write your own.

My passage uses ___ structure. A clue is ___.

MATERIALS

two passages
writing paper
signal word card

Swap with a partner. Can they spot your structure?

When you finish, be ready to share one signal word you found.



TODAY WE LEARNED

Three things to remember

I can name two text structures: compare and contrast, and problem and solution.

I can find signal words like however, but, because, and so.

I can match a short passage to its structure and explain why.