ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Expository writing

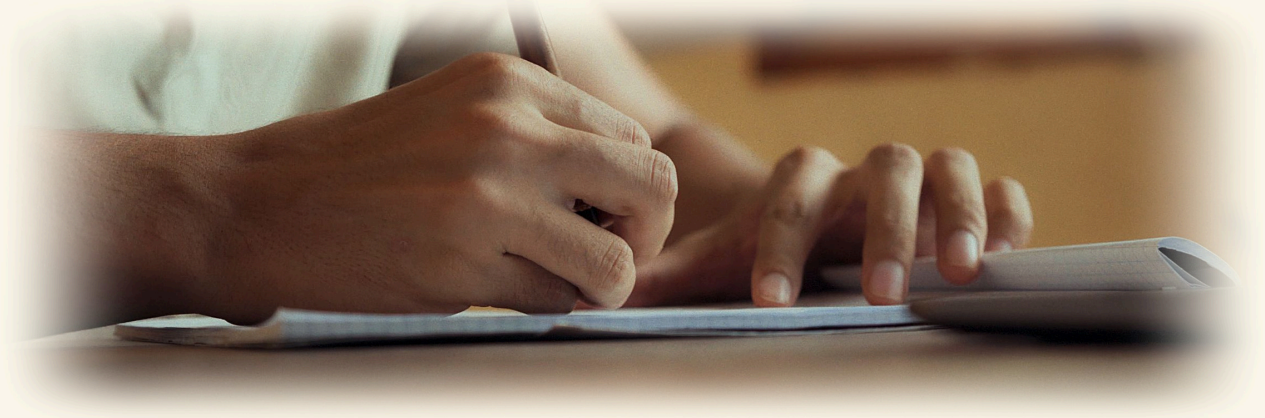
Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you explain a topic clearly with facts and examples. A report that teaches someone how something works needs clear structure, true facts, and examples that make the idea concrete. It is the writing you use at school, at work, and anywhere you need to inform rather than entertain. Clear explanation is what turns knowledge you have into knowledge someone else can use.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Is this expository? 'Bees collect nectar and make honey. They also pollinate flowers.'

SOLUTION

Ask: does it explain with facts? Yes.

Does it argue for a side? No.

So yes, it is expository.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Is this expository? 'You must buy this honey, the best honey ever!'

SOLUTION

Ask: does it explain with facts? No.

Does it try to persuade you to buy? Yes.

So no, it is persuasive, not expository.

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Practice questions

1 **Is this expository? 'The water cycle has evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.'**

A Yes

B No

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2 **Is this expository? 'Everyone should recycle now!'**

A Yes

B No

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3 Which of these is expository?

- A 'Earthquakes happen when plates under the ground move.'
- B 'Everyone should recycle now!'
- C 'Once upon a time, a bee flew away.'
- D 'Honey is the best food ever!'

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4 What makes a passage expository?

- A It explains with facts and examples
- B It argues for one side
- C It tells a made-up story
- D It gives the writer's feelings

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5 Why is 'Volcanoes form when magma rises through cracks in the crust' expository?

- A It explains with facts
- B It tells the reader what to do
- C It gives an opinion
- D It tells a made-up story

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6 Which sentence is NOT expository?

- A 'Photosynthesis is how plants make food using sunlight.'
- B 'A triangle has three sides and three angles.'
- C 'You simply must try this amazing diet!'
- D 'The Moon orbits Earth about once a month.'

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7 Why is 'You should recycle now!' NOT expository?

A It gives a fact

B It tells the reader what to do

C It is too short

D It has no examples

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8 Which sentence belongs in an expository report about bees?

A 'Bees are the best insects ever.'

B 'Bees collect nectar and make honey.'

C 'You must buy this honey, the best honey ever!'

D 'Once a bee flew far away.'

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9 A passage says: 'The water cycle has evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. It is the most amazing thing ever!' Which part is NOT expository?

- **A** 'The water cycle has evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.'
- **B** 'It is the most amazing thing ever!'
- **C** 'The water cycle'
- **D** 'evaporation'

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10 What should a writer add to make this passage expository: 'Volcanoes are scary and amazing!'?

- **A** Facts about how volcanoes form
- **B** More exciting words
- **C** An argument for visiting volcanoes
- **D** A story about a volcano

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ANSWER KEY

1. Yes
2. No
3. 'Earthquakes happen when plates under the ground move.'
4. It explains with facts and examples
5. It explains with facts
6. 'You simply must try this amazing diet!'
7. It tells the reader what to do
8. 'Bees collect nectar and make honey.'
9. 'It is the most amazing thing ever!'
10. Facts about how volcanoes form

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