

Progression of Non-Fiction Writing Genres

Non-fiction texts are wide ranging and occur in many forms in everyday life. The following tables and supporting guidance select the most common forms of non-fiction. Many non-fiction texts in real life blur the boundaries between text types and their features. The most common language features are listed for each text type but variants of all text types occur, especially when they are used in combination. The features listed are often but not always present.

Progression in Discussion Texts

Discussion texts are not limited to controversial issues but polarised views are generally used to teach this text type as this makes it easier to teach children how to present different viewpoints and provide evidence for them. Discussions contrast with persuasion texts which generally only develop one viewpoint and may present a biased view, often the writer's own. Like all text types, discussion texts vary widely and elements of discussion writing are often found within other text types.

Common forms of discussion text:

Non-fiction book on an 'issues' Write-up a debate Leaflet or article giving balanced account of an issue Writing editorials about historical attitudes to gender, social class, colonialism etc. Writing letters about pollution, factory farming or smoking Writing essays giving opinions about literature, music or works of art

Year group	Grammatical features to include in discussions	
1	n/a	
2	Consistent use of present tense	
3	Use present perfect form of verbs Heading and subheadings used to aid presentation	
4	Effective use of noun phrases Use of paragraphs to organise ideas Use adverbials e.g. therefore, however	
5	Create cohesion within paragraphs using adverbials Use layout devices to provide additional information and guide the reader	
6	Create cohesion across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices which can include adverbials Make formal and informal vocabulary choices Use the passive voice to present points of view without Adapt degrees of formality and informality to suit the form of the discussion Use conditional forms such as the subjunctive form to hypothesise Make formal and informal vocabulary choices Use semi-colons, colons and dashes to make boundaries between clauses	

Discussion Purpose:

To present a reasoned and balanced overview of an issue or controversial topic. Usually aims to provide two or more different views on an issue, each with elaborations, evidence and/ or examples.

Progression in Explanatory Texts

Explanatory texts generally go beyond simple 'description' in that they include information about causes, motives or reasons. Explanations and reports aresometimes confused when children are asked to 'explain' and they actually provide a report, e.g. what they did (or what happened) but not how and why. Although some children's dictionaries do include an encyclopaedia-like explanation, others are inaccurately categorised as explanation texts when they simply define a word's meaning. Like all text types, explanatory texts vary widely and are often found combined with other text types.

Common forms of explanatory text:

Explaining electricity, forces, food chains etc. in science

Explaining inventions such as the steam train, the causes of historic events such as wars and revolutions, explaining the role of the Nile in determining the seasons in Ancient Egypt

Explaining phenomena such as the water cycle or how a volcano erupts in geographyExplaining

religious traditions and practices in RE

Encyclopaedia entriesTechnical

manuals

Question and answer articles and leafletsScience write-

ups

Year group	Grammatical features to include in explanations
1	n/a
2	Consistent use of present tense Questions
	can be used to form titles
	Question marks are used to denote questions (Y1)Use
	conjunctions e.g. sobecause
3	Express time, place and cause using conjunctions (e.g. so, because), adverbs and prepositions
	Heading and subheadings used to aid presentation
4	Use fronted adverbials
	Use of paragraphs to organise ideas
	Create cohesion through the use of nouns and pronouns
5	Indicate degrees of possibility using adverbs and modal verbs
	Use layout devices to provide additional information and guide the readerCreate
	cohesion within paragraphs using adverbials
	Relative clauses can be used to add further information
	Parenthesis can be used to add clarification of technical words
6	Adapt degrees of formality and informality to suit the form of the explanation
	Create cohesion across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices which can include adverbials
	The passive voice can be used

Explanation Purpose: To explain how or why, e.g. to e	explain the processes involved in natural/social phenomena or to explain why	something is the way it is.
Generic text structure	Grammatical features	Planning and preparation
 A general statement to introduce the topic being explained. E.g. In the winter some animals hibernate. The steps or phases in a process are explained logically, in order. E.g. When thenights get longer because the temperature begins to drop so the hedgehog looks for a safe place to hide. 	 Written in present tense e.g. Hedgehogswake up again in the spring.) Questions can be used to form titles e.g. How do hedgehogs survive the winter? Whydoes it get dark at night? Question marks are used to denotequestions. Use of adverbs e.g. first, then, after that, finally Use of conjunctions e.g. so, because Use prepositions e.g. before, after Cohesion can be created, and repetition avoided through the use of nouns and pronouns e.g. Many mammalsthey feedtheir young Indicate degrees of possibility using adverbs e.g. perhaps, surely Sometimes modalverbs can be used to express degrees of possibility e.g. might, should, will Fronted adverbials can be used e.g. During the night, nocturnal animals Relative clauses can be used to add furtherinformation e.g. Hedgehogs, which are mammals Degrees of formality and informality can be adapted to suit the form of the discussion, soan informal tone can sometimes be appropriate e.g. vyu'll be surprised to know that Have you ever thought about the waythat? And a formal, authoritative tone canalso be adopted e.g. oxygen is constantly replaced in the bloodstream The passive voice can sometimes be used e.g. gases are carried Layout devices such as heading, subheadings, columns, bullets etc. can beused to present information clearly. Paragraphs are useful for organising theexplanation into logical sections. Brackets, dashes and commas can be used to add extra information inside parenthesis e.g. oxygen (a gas found in air) 	 Choose a title that shows what you are explaining, perhaps using why or how. Decide whether you need to include imagesor other features to help your reader, e.g. diagrams, photographs, a flow chart, a text box, captions, a list or a glossary. Use the first paragraph to introduce whatyou will be explaining. Plan the steps in your explanation and checkthat you have included any necessary information about how and why things happen as they do. Add a few interesting details. Interest the reader by talking directly to them Re-read your explanation as if you know nothing at all about the subject. Check that there are no gaps in the information Remember that you can adapt explanatory texts or combine them with other text typesto make them work effectively for your audience and purpose.

Progression in Instruction Texts

Like all text types, variants of instructions occur and they can be combined with other text types. They may be visual only (e.g. a series of diagrams with animage for each step in the process) or a combination of words and images. Instructions and procedural texts are found in all areas of the curriculum and include rules for games, recipes, instructions for making something and directions.

Common forms of instructional text:

How to design and make artefacts Technical manuals: how to operate computers, phones, devices How to carry out science experiments or to carry out a mathematical procedure How to play a game Writing rules for behaviour How to cook and prepare food Timetables and route-finders Posters, notices and signs Instructions on packaging

Year Group	Grammatical features to include in instructions
1	Although, the Year 1 curriculum asks pupils to sequence sentences to write short narratives, simple instructions can be written. These should use the grammar and punctuation objectives listed in the National Curriculum for Year 1.
2	Use of command sentences Commas in lists
3	Express time, place and cause using conjunctions (e.g. so, because), adverbs and prepositionsHeading and subheadings used to aid presentation
4	Create cohesion through the use of nouns and pronouns Use fronted adverbials
5	Parenthesis can be used to add additional advice Relative clauses can be used to add further informationModals can be used to suggest degrees of possibility Use layout devices to provide additional information and guide the reader
6	Adapt degrees of formality and informality to suit the form of the instructions Create cohesion across the text using a wide of cohesive devices including layout features

Instructions Purpose:			
To ensure something is done effectively and/or correctly with a successful outcome for the participant/s			
Generic text structure	Planning and preparation		
 desired outcome. E.g. How to make a board game. List any material or equipment needed, in order. Provide simple, clear instructions. If a process is to be undertaken, keep to the order in which the steps need to be followed to achieve the stated goal. Diagrams or illustrations are often integral and may even take the place of some text. (Diagram B shows you how to connect the wires.) A final evaluative statement can be used towrap up the process. E.g. Now go and enjoyplaying your new game. Your beautiful summer salad is now ready to eat. 	 Use of imperative/command sentences e.g.Cut the card Paint your designsome of these may be negative commands e.g. Do not use any glue at this stage Commas in lists can be used to separaterequired ingredients/materials Conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions canbe used to order and explain the procedure e.g. when this has been donenextaddafter doing this Relative clauses can be used to add furtherinformation e.g. Collect your jam from the fried, which may be bought or homemade Cohesion can be created, and repetition avoided through the use of nouns and pronouns e.g. Add the egg and then beat itwith a whisk. Additional advice can be added through theuse of parenthesis e.g. (It's a good idea to leave it overnight if you have time) Conditional adverbials can be used, including as fronted adverbials to make suggested alternatives e.g. If you would liketo make a bigger decoration, you could either double the dimensions of the base orjust draw bigger flowers. Modals can be used to suggest degrees of possibility e.g. you shouldyou might wantto Different degrees of formality may be required e.g. Cook for 20 minutes/Pop yourcheesecake in the oven for 20 minutes. Headings can be used to separate the equipment from the procedure. Layout devices such as bullet points, numbers or letters to help your reader keeptrack as they work their way through each step. 	 Use the title to show what the instructionsare about. E.g. How to look after goldfish. Work out exactly what sequence is neededto achieve the planned goal. Decide on the important points you need toinclude at each stage. Keep sentences as short and simple aspossible. Avoid unnecessary adjectives and adverbs ortechnical words, especially if your readers are young. Appeal directly to the reader's interest and enthusiasm. E.g. You will really enjoy this game. Why not try out this delicious recipe on your friends? Only one more thing left todo now. Use procedural texts within other text typeswhen you need a set of rules, guidelines or instructions to make something really clear for the reader. 	

Progression in Non-Chronological Report Texts

Non-chronological reports describe things the way they are, so they usually present information in an objective way. Sometimes, the selection of information by the writer can result in a biased report. As with all text types, variants occur and non-chronological reports can be combined with other text types. A text that is essentially a non-chronological report written in the present tense may include other text types such as other types of report, e.g. when a specific example is provided to add detail to a statement.

Common forms of report text:

Describing aspects of daily life in history (e.g. fashion, transport, buildings) Describing the characteristics of anything (e.g. particular animals or plants; the planets, different rocks and materials; mythological creatures) Comparing and describing localities or geographical features Describing the characteristics of religious groups and their lifestyles in RE Information leaflets, Catalogues, Magazine articles Tourist guidebooks & Non-fiction books Encyclopedia entries Letters

Year group	Grammatical features to include in reports
1	Although, the Year 1 curriculum asks pupils to sequence sentences to write short narratives, simple non-chronological reports can bewritten about
	topics with which pupils are familiar. These should use the grammar and punctuation objectives listed in the National Curriculum for Year 1.
2	Use present and past tense throughout writing
	Questions can be used to form titles
	Question marks are used to denote questions (Y1)Use
	conjunctions e.g. because to aid explanation
	Use adjectives including comparative adjectives to create description
3	Express time, place and cause using conjunctions (e.g. so, because), adverbs and prepositions
	Headings and subheadings used to aid presentation
4	Create cohesion through the use of nouns and pronouns
	Use of paragraphs to organise ideas
5	Create cohesion within paragraphs using adverbials
	Parenthesis can be used to add additional information
	Use layout devices to provide additional information and guide the reader
6	Use vocabulary typical of informal speech and that appropriate for formal speech in the appropriate written forms
	The passive voice can be used
	Create cohesion across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices such as organisational features, headings and questions.

Generic text structure	Grammatical features	Planning and Preparation
 In the absence of a temporal (chronological) structure where events happen in a particular order, non- chronological reports usually have a logical structure. They tend to group information, often moving from general to more specific detail and examples or elaborations. A common structure includes: an opening statement, often a generalclassification (Sparrows are birds); sometimes followed by a more detailed ortechnical classification (Their Latin name is); a description of whatever is the subject of the report organised in some way to help thereader make sense of the information. For example: its qualities (Like most birds, sparrows havefeathers.); its parts and their functions (The beak issmall and strong so that it can); its habits/behaviour/ uses (Sparrows nest in) 	 Often written in the third person and present tense e.g. They like to build their nests It is a cold and dangerous place tolive. Sometimes written in the past tense, as in ahistorical report e.g. Children as young as seven worked in factories. They were poorlyfed and clothed and they did dangerous work. Questions can be used to form titles e.g. Who were the Victorians? What was it like ina Victorian school? Question marks are used to denotequestions. Use of conjunctions e.g. so, because Use prepositions e.g. before, after Cohesion can be created, and repetitionavoided through the use of nouns and pronouns e.g. The Victorians likedthey were particularly fond of Non-chronological reports are often organised into sections. This makes part Headings can be used to organise different sections. Layout devices such as heading, subheadings, columns, bullets etc. can be used to present information clearly. Consistent use across the text helps createchesion. The passive voice is frequently used to avoid personalisation, to avoid naming the agent of averb, to add variety to sentences or to maintain an appropriate level of formality forthe context and purpose of writing. E.g. Sparrows are found in Sharks are hunted children were taught Requires the writer to appreciate the difference between vocabulary typical of informal speech and that appropriate for formal speech e.g. the habitat of wood micerather than where wood mice live. Adjectives and specifically comparative adjectives can be used to create description e.g. Polar bears are the biggest carnivores ofall. They hibernate, just like other bears. A polar bear's nose is as black as a piece of coal. Brackets, dashes and commas can be used to add extra information inside parenthesis. 	 Plan how you will organise the informationyou want to include, e.g. use paragraph headings, a spidergram or a grid. Gather information from a wide range ofsources and collect it under the headingsyou've planned. Consider using a question in the title to interest your reader (Vitamins – why are theyso important?). Try to find a new way to approach the subject and compose an opening that will attract the reader or capture their interest. Use the opening to make very clear what youare writing about. Include tables, diagrams or images e.g. imported photographs or drawings that addor summarise information. Find ways of making links with your reader. You could ask a direct question e.g. Have youever heard of a hammerhead shark? or add a personal touch to the text e.g. S next time you choose a pet, think about getting a dog. Re-read the report as if you know nothing about its subject. Check that information islogically organised and clear. Use other text-types within your report ifthey will make it more effective for your purpose and audience.

Progression in Persuasive Texts

Persuasive texts can be written, oral or written to be spoken, e.g. a script for a television advert or presentation. The persuasive intention may be covert and not necessarily recognised by the reader or listener. Texts vary considerably according to context and audience so that persuasion is not always a distinct text-type that stands alone. Elements of persuasive writing are found in many different texts including moving image texts and digital multimedia texts. Some examples may include evidence of bias and opinion being subtly presented as facts.

Common forms of persuasive text:

Writing publicity materials such as tourist brochures based on trips to places of interest; writing editorials to newspapers about controversial issues

Writing letters about topics such as traffic on the high street or deforestations

Creating posters and leaflets about issues such as bullying, stranger danger or substance abuse

Creating posters, articles and leaflets promoting healthy living based on science work about teeth and nutrition

Writing book reviews for other pupils

Book blurbs Political pamphlets

Applying for a job or a position on the school council

Year group	Grammatical features to include in persuasive texts
1	n/a
2	Written in present tense
	Rhetorical questions
	Effective use of noun phrases
3	Express time, place and cause using conjunctions (e.g. so, because), adverbs and prepositions
	Use present perfect form of verbs
4	Create cohesion through the use of nouns and pronouns
	Use adverbials e.g. therefore, however
	Use paragraphs to organise ideas
	Effective use of expanded noun phrases
5	Modals can be used to suggest degrees of possibility
	Create cohesion within paragraphs using adverbials
6	Make formal and informal vocabulary choices
	Adapt degrees of formality and informality to suit the form of the text
	The passive voice can be used in some formal persuasive texts
	Use conditional forms such as the subjunctive form to hypothesise
	Create cohesion across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices which can include adverbials

Generic text structure	Grammatical features	Planning and Preparation
 An opening statement (thesis) that sums up the viewpoint being presented. (Greentrees Hotel is the best in the world. School uniformis a good idea.) Strategically organised information presentsand then elaborates on the desired viewpoint. (Vote for me because I am very experienced. I have been a school councilor three times and I have) A closing statement repeats and reinforces the original thesis. (All the evidence shows that It's quite clear that Having seen all that we offer you, there can be no doubt thatwe are the best.) 	 present perfect e.g. people have said Often refers to generic rather than specific participants e.g. Vegetables are good for you. They This means that cohesion is created through the combined use of nouns and pronouns. Uses adverbials e.g. therefore, however tocreate cohesion within and across paragraphs. Uses logical conjunctions, adverbials and prepositions e.g. This proves that So it'sclear Therefore Paragraphs are useful for organising the content into logical sections. Requires the writer to make formal and informal vocabulary choices 	 Decide on the viewpoint you want to presentand carefully select the information that supports it. Organise the main points to be made in thebest order and decide which persuasive information you will add to support each. Plan some elaboration/explanation, evidenceand example(s) for each key point but avoid ending up with text that sounds like a list. Think about counter arguments your readermight come up with and include evidence tomake them seem incorrect or irrelevant. Try to appear reasonable and use facts ratherthan emotive comments. Choose strong, positive words and phrasesand avoid sounding negative. Use short sentences for emphasis. Re-read the text as if you have no opinionand decide if you would be persuaded. Remember that you can use persuasivewriting within other text types.

Progression in Recounts

Recounts are sometimes referred to as 'accounts'. They are the most common text type we encounter as readers and listeners, not least because they are basic form of many storytelling texts. Stories and anecdotes can have a range of purposes, frequently depending on the genre being used, and they often set out to achieve a deliberate effect on the reader/listener. In non-fiction texts they are used to provide an account of events. Recounts can be combined with other text types, for example, newspaper reports of an event often consist of a recount that includes elements of explanation.

Common forms of recount texts:

Retelling stories in English lessons and other curriculum areas such as RE Giving accounts of schoolwork, sporting events, science experiments and trips out Writing historical accounts Writing biographies and autobiographies Letters and postcards Diaries and journals Newspaper reports & Magazine articles Obituaries Encyclopedia entries

Year group	Grammatical features to include in recounts
1	Although, the Year 1 curriculum asks pupils to sequence sentences to write short narratives, simple recounts and retellings can be written about
	experiences with which pupils are familiar. These should use the grammar and punctuation objectives listed in the National Curriculum for Year 1.
2	Use past and present tense throughout writing
	Use progressive forms of verbs
	Use conjunctions for coordination and subordination
	Use of noun phrases
3	Express time, place and cause using conjunctions (e.g. so, because), adverbs and prepositions
	Inverted commas can be used to punctuate direct speech
4	Use of paragraphs to organise ideas
	Effective use of expanded noun phrases
	Fronted adverbials (e.g. Later that day)
5	Use of the past perfect
	Modals can be used to indicate degrees of possibility
	Create cohesion within paragraphs using adverbials
6	Use of the past perfect progressive form of verbs
	Adapt degrees of formality and informality to suit the form of the text
	Create cohesion across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices which can include adverbials

Recount Purpose: To argue a case from a particular point o	f view and to encourage the reader/listener towards the same way of seeing things.	
Generic text structure	Grammatical features	Planning and Preparation
 Structure often includes: orientation such as scene-setting or establishing context (It was the schoolholidays. I went to the park) an account of the events that took place, often in chronological order (The first person to arrive was) some additional detail about each event(He was surprised to see me.) reorientation, e.g. a closing statementthat may include elaboration. (I hope Ican go to the park again next week. It was fun.) Structure sometimes reorganises the chronology events using techniques such as flashbacks, moving the focus backwards and forwards in time, but these strategies are more often used in fiction recounts 	 Usually written in the past tense with space for pupils to use the past progressive form playing. I was hoping Opportunities also exist for the use of the past perfect e.g. The children had triedearlier in the day, the owls had hunted and Past perfect progressive forms e.g. the children had been singing we hadbeen hoping to go on this trip for a long time Some forms may use present tense, e.g. informal anecdotal storytelling (Just imagine – I'm in the park and I suddenly see a giant bat flying towards me!) which also enables writing to meet different levels of formality and informality. In these cases it is also possible to extend opportunities to writing using the present progressive e.g. I am really hoping Conjunctions are useful for coordinating events and showing subordination e.g. wewent to the park so we could play on the swings Events being recounted have a chronologicalorder, so conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions are used e.g. then, next, first, afterwards, just before that, at last, meanwhile. Noun phrases (some people, most dogs, bluebutterfly) can be used to add detail and interest the reader The subject of a recount tends to focus onindividual or group participants, which requires the use of either first or third person e.g. Third person they all shouted, she crept out, it looked like an animal of some kind). In personal recounts, the first person is used e.g. I was on my way to school We got on the bus Recounts can take many forms (diaries, letters, newspaper reports) paragraphingcan be used to organise all of these. Uses adverbials e.g. therefore, however tocreate cohesion within and across paragraphing. Different degrees of formality may be required for different forms e.g. high formality if recounting in the style of a broadsheet newspaper or informal in a personal dary. Modals can be used to suggest degrees of possibility e.g. I should never havethey mus	 Plan how you will organise the way you retell the events. You could use a timeline to help you plan. Details are important to create a recount rather than a simple list of events in order. Try using When? Where? Who? What? Why? questions to help you plan what to include. Decide how you will finish the recount. You'll need a definite ending, perhaps a summary or a comment on what happened (I think our school trip to the Science Museum was the best we have ever had). Read the text through as if you don't know anything about what it is being recounted. Isit clear what happened and when? Is the style right for the genre you are using?(Technical/formal language to recount an adventure, informal, personal language to tell your friends about something funny thathappened to you.)