

Instruction text

What is it?

An instruction text tells the reader how to do or make something or how to behave in a specific situation. The text usually has a sequence when the instructions must be carried out in order. It may contain lists and paragraphs, which help the reader to understand what is needed and the order of events. An instruction text can have many genres, such as a recipe, an instruction manual or leaflet, an experiment, directions, a code of conduct, a how-to-make book, instructions for playing a game.

How is the text organised?

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| Title | Names the object to be made or what needs to be done |
| Materials or equipment | <p>Recipe or instructions to make something: a list of ingredients or materials needed to make the item.</p> <p>In a longer text, such as an instruction manual, the introduction may define the item to be made or maintained.</p> <p>A code of conduct may start by defining the group or situation the conduct or behaviour relates to.</p> |
| Method | <p>The method section tells the reader what to do in order to make the item or follow the rules or code of conduct.</p> <p>In most instruction texts, each instruction is in order and there may be bullet points or numbers to show the sequence.</p> <p>Longer instruction texts might have linked sentences or paragraphs.</p> |

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| | This section might have headings and sub-headings and may also use pictures, diagrams or photographs. |
| Evaluation or comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an evaluative comment • how to test or evaluate the finished product • sometimes the text has a photograph or picture showing what the finished item should look like. |

What language is often used in an instruction text?

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| Specific nouns and noun phrases, technical vocabulary | 4 slices of wholemeal bread A balloon whisk A ball of red 4-ply wool |
| Adverbs and adverbial phrases to indicate time or sequence | First, after that, next, while, Finally, until |
| Adverbs and adverbial phrases to indicate specific place or position | Into the food processor, in the centre of the flour, between the two upright posts |
| Verbs: instruction sentences and clauses starting with an imperative verb | Put, stir, measure, divide, attach |
| Factual, precise adjectives and noun phrases to specify | A sheet of ready-roll filo pastry A large, free-range egg 2 A4 sheets of thick, glossy card |
| Punctuation | Bullet points, numbers or letters to sequence the instruction sentences. May have a colon before the list, e.g. You will need: some card, glitter, felt tips and glue. |

Our curriculum-based teaching resources with a strong language and subject knowledge focus are available at www.languageforlife.education and from our TES shop. Contact us at phonicsforlife@outlook.com