## WRITING AN EXPLANATION

Purpose:

To tell how or why things occur.

Why is it so?



Studyladder

# Examples of Different Types of Explanations:

scientific explanations, spoken explanations



## Structure:

- 1) <u>Identifying Statement:</u>
  Statement of phenomenon to identify the topic to be explained.
- 2) <u>Explanation Sequence:</u>
  Series of paragraphs that explain how or why things happen in chronological order.
- 3) <u>Concluding Statement:</u>
  A paragraph that summarises the explanation.

### **Structural Features:**

- \* Use a title.
- \* Organise information by paragraphs.

### Language Features:

- \* Uses passive voice.
- \* Uses present tense.
- \* Uses technical language.
- \* Uses words for cause and effect sequences such as 'as a result', 'because'
- \* Uses noun groups and abstract nouns.
- \* Uses action verbs.

### **Questions To Ask Yourself:**

What happened? Why did it happen? How did it happen? What scientific terms do I need to use for this topic? Do I need to include a glossary of these terms?