Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

How Texts Are Built

Compare structures across two texts

About 30 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Four Structures to Spot

Every text has an overall **structure**. Watch for **signal words** — they hint at the plan.



- Chronology is time order. Look for dates like In 1832, then, finally.
- Comparison shows alike and different. Look for both, while, in contrast.
- Cause and effect shows what happened and why. Look for because, as a result, led to.
- Problem and solution names a problem and shows how it was fixed.

Task A

Example done for you

/3

Put these steps for comparing structures in order.

- [ ] Find the overall structure of the first text.
- [ ] Find the overall structure of the second text.
- [ ] Explain how the two structures are alike or different, with signal words as proof.
- [1] Read both texts and state the shared topic.

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Words and Letter

Learn key words, then explain structures in a letter.

Key words

chronology: time order from first to last

cause: why something happened

problem: something that needs fixing

comparison: how things are alike and different

effect: what happened as a result

solution: how the problem was fixed

Task B

Write a short letter to teach a buddy about structures.

.....

.....

.....

Date: _____

Dear buddy,

Say what text structure means in your own words

.....

.....

.....

Describe two structures and one signal word for each

.....

.....

.....

Tell which you like best for history and why

.....

.....

.....

Your friend, _____

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Two Telegraph Texts

Read two texts on one topic and name each shape.

Two Texts About the Telegraph

1. Text 1: How the Telegraph Grew. In 1832 Samuel Morse sketched a plan for sending messages by wire. Five years later, in 1837, he and his partner built a working model. In 1843 Congress paid for a wire between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore.
2. On May 24, 1844, Morse sent the first message, What hath God wrought. By the mid-1850s more than twenty thousand miles of wire crossed the country. In 1866 a cable linked North America to Europe. By 1900 the telegraph was the fastest way to share news.
3. Text 2: Why the Telegraph Mattered. Before the telegraph, news moved only as fast as a horse or ship. As a result, news from Europe took weeks to reach America.
4. Because messages could travel in seconds, papers printed same-day reports. This caused markets to change prices fast. Families could send urgent news in one day, which led armies to plan in new ways.

Task C

Example done for you

/3

Tick the best answer about each text's structure.

1. What is the overall structure of Text 1 in paragraphs 1 and 2?
   - [x] Chronology (time order)
   - [ ] Cause and effect
   - [ ] Problem and solution
2. What is the overall structure of Text 2 in paragraphs 3 and 4?
   - [ ] Chronology
   - [ ] Comparison
   - [ ] Cause and effect
3. Which signal words best show the **structure** of Text 1?
   - [ ] In 1832, Five years later, By 1900
   - [ ] Because, as a result, led to
   - [ ] Both, while, in contrast
4. How are the two texts different?
   - [ ] They are about different topics
   - [ ] They use the same topic but different structures
   - [ ] They both list steps in time order

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Fact or Opinion

Tell what can be checked and how you feel.

Task D

/5

Mark fact or opinion. Then explain one choice in a sentence.

Statement	Fact	Opinion
Paragraph 2 says Morse sent his first message on May 24, 1844.		
Paragraph 4 says papers printed same-day reports because messages traveled fast.		
Chronology is more fun than cause and effect.		
Everyone should love reading about the telegraph.		

How can you tell that one of them is an opinion?

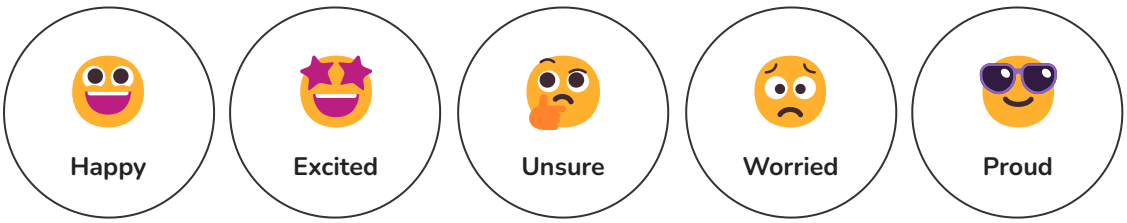
.....

.....

Task E

Circle a face. Then write one short sentence.

How do you feel about comparing two **structures**?



Why do you feel like this?

.....

.....

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Pick the Best Plan

Compare choices, then link key words.

Task F

/8

Compare plans for one writing task.

Your class will make a poster about trash on the playground. Which structure fits best?

Chronology	Cause and Effect	Problem and Solution
Advantage	Advantage	Advantage
Disadvantage	Disadvantage	Disadvantage

Which is the most suitable? Justify your choice.

Task G

Make a chain. Each word must link to the word before.

structure → because... _____ → chronology -> date – dates show time order → because... _____

[ ] → because... _____ [ ] → because... _____ [ ]

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can name four text structures. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can find signal words that show structure. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can compare how two texts organize the same topic. ☹ 😐 ☺

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Answer sheet: How Texts Are Built

Task A

1. Read both texts and state the shared topic. 2. Find the overall structure of the first text. 3. Find the overall structure of the second text. 4. Explain how the two structures are alike or different, with signal words as proof.

Task B

Answers will vary.

Task C

1. a) Chronology (time order)
2. c) Cause and effect
3. a) In 1832, Five years later, By 1900
4. b) They use the same topic but different structures

Task D

1. Fact
2. Fact
3. Opinion
4. Opinion

Task E

Answers will vary.

Task F

Chronology: + Shows cleanup steps in time order; – Does not explain why trash is a problem
Cause and Effect: + Explains why trash harms kids and birds; – Does not give cleanup steps in order
Problem and Solution: + Names the trash problem and shows the fix; – Needs extra facts about results
Problem and Solution is best because the poster must name the trash problem and show the fix.

Task G

Answers will vary, e.g. structure → chronology — chronology is a time-order structure → chronology → date — dates show time order → date → May 24, 1844 — a date from Text 1

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