

# Text structures

## Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

**Text structure** is how information is organized in a nonfiction text. The main types of text structure and their signal words are:

<b>Compare and contrast</b>	like, unlike, both, also, similar to, different from
<b>Problem and solution</b>	problem, because, in order to, one reason for, a solution, since, may be due to, therefore, as a result, solve
<b>Sequence</b>	first, next, then, later, soon, last, after, when, while, suddenly, once
<b>Cause and effect</b>	because, since, as a result, if/then, therefore, due to, for
<b>Description</b>	for instance, for example, such as, to illustrate, most importantly, in addition to, also, to begin with

**Identify the text structure in each paragraph, and explain what clues helped you figure it out.**

- Do you like the smell of popcorn when you walk into a movie theater? It's actually a pretty easy process to make something so delicious! First, the corn kernels are placed in a hot pan. As they heat up, the water inside the kernels turns into steam. This builds pressure inside each kernel. Before too long, the pressure is too great, and the outer shell of the kernel cracks open! The inside bursts out, and the kernel flips inside out. It's this "pop!" that turns corn kernels into soft, white pieces of popcorn. Once the kernels are cool, they are ready to eat!



**Text Structure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I know this because:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Popsicles and ice cream are both frozen desserts that both kids and adults enjoy on hot days. As its name suggests, ice cream is creamy and smooth because it is made from milk or cream. Popsicles, on the other hand, are usually made from fruit juice or flavored water. For this reason, ice cream is a little more similar to soft desserts like pudding, while popsicles are icier and firmer. Unlike ice cream, which is usually eaten with a spoon or on a cone, popsicles are frozen on a stick. Both types of treats come in many different flavors. Both treats will also melt in the heat. It may seem like ice cream melts a little more quickly, though, while popsicles will just start to drip!



**Text Structure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I know this because:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Traffic jams are a pretty common problem in cities and on busy roads. They usually happen when too many cars are trying to use the same road at the same time. This is most likely to occur during rush hour, which is when most people travel to work or school. If too many cars are on the road at once, then traffic begins to slow down. Traffic jams can also happen as a result of accidents, construction or bad weather. All three of these things cause cars to move slowly or even come to a complete stop. Traffic causes many drivers to get frustrated because it makes them late. When people idle (or stay still with their cars running) for a long period of time, traffic can also create more air pollution.



**Text Structure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I know this because:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think it would be cool or terrifying if dinosaurs still roamed the Earth? Imagine coming face-to-face with a Tyrannosaurus rex! The first thing you would probably notice is its enormous size. A T-Rex would grow up to 40 feet long and stand as tall as a building! Its teeth were as big as bananas. In addition to its size, the T-Rex had powerful legs that helped it move quickly. Its tail was important too, because it helped the T-Rex balance as it walked and ran. This dinosaur was a top predator and one of the strongest land animals.



**Text Structure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I know this because:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Nobody likes getting bitten by mosquitoes! While they may be an inevitable part of summer, mosquitoes can be a big problem in warm and wet areas. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water, which is water that is not moving. Therefore, their populations can grow very quickly in areas with lots of puddles, ponds or even buckets of water that are left outside. This is a problem not only because mosquitoes are annoying, but because they can also carry diseases that are dangerous to humans. One way to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home is to remove any standing water. This will make it harder for mosquitoes to lay eggs. Another solution is to use screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outdoors. People may also choose to wear insect repellent on their bodies or clothes to protect themselves.



**Text Structure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I know this because:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Answers

The text structures students should identify are:

1. Sequence
2. Compare/Contrast
3. Cause/Effect
4. Description
5. Problem/Solution

Students' explanations will vary, but they should include some of the signal words listed on Page 1.