

# 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.**

- It's not always easy to listen. Sometimes, noise, devices or just having a lot on your mind can make it hard to really listen. As a result of not listening, people may miss important information or instructions. This makes it easier for mistakes to occur. Not listening carefully can also make it harder to understand what people are saying and to learn. One way to solve this problem is for people to practice active listening. When someone is actively listening, it means they are looking at the speaker, staying focused and thinking about what is being said. Another solution is for teachers to ask students to repeat what they heard. In order to do this, students have to process what the teacher said and then say it back! A third solution is for people to turn devices, which can help them focus. When people really try to listen more carefully, they are able to learn better and communicate more effectively!



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

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

2. It may seem like you have always known how to walk, but this is definitely not the case! Babies first begin to build their strength by kicking their legs and learning how to roll. When they are ready, they begin to crawl. This important step teaches them how to balance and how to move their bodies. Next, babies begin pulling themselves up to stand as they hold onto furniture. Once they feel pretty stable doing this, they may start to take a few steps as they continue holding onto something for support. It's common for babies to fall at first, but they are determined. Babies keep practicing and get stronger every day! Eventually, they learn to walk steadily all on their own.



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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Haunted houses are dark and quiet... until they're not! As you walk around, the floors may creak under your feet. Doors may slowly open on their own. It may be totally silent, or there may be strange sounds that you can't quite identify. Everything sounds scarier when you're inside a haunted house. In fact, whispers, footsteps and sudden noises may all make you jump! In the dark, everything looks different too. The cobwebs, flickering lights and old furniture don't help to make you feel at home. For example, a chair in the corner might look like a person or the flickering lights might make it harder to really see what is in the room. Haunted houses are specially designed to make visitors feel nervous. Some people love the feeling and others hate it!



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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Birds of prey are birds that feed mostly on meat. Owls and hawks are both birds of prey that hunt other animals for food. They both have sharp talons, excellent eyesight and strong beaks. Owls are different from hawks, however, because they are mostly active at night. Hawks, on the other hand, tend to hunt during the day. Unlike hawks, owls also have the special ability to fly very quietly, which can help them sneak up on their prey. These two animals are similar in that they both eat small animals like mice as well as insects. They also both play a key role in keeping our ecosystems balanced.



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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

5. It can be almost hypnotizing to watch waves roll into shore. Did you know that ocean waves are mostly caused by wind blowing across the surface of the water? Waves form because moving air transfers energy into the water as it pushes against it. This causes the water to begin moving in a rolling motion. The stronger the wind, the bigger the waves become. Since wind can blow over long distances, waves can travel far across the ocean. If the wind blows strongly or for a long period of time, then the waves gain more energy and grow bigger. Therefore, storms can create big waves. Waves can also be caused by other factors. For instance, underwater earthquakes can suddenly move large amounts of water. As a result, gigantic waves called tsunamis can form and travel quickly across the ocean.



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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

## Answers

The text structures students should identify are:

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

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