

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

Text Structure - Information Report

General statement - Classification identifies and classifies the subject

Description - including appearance, breeding and habits, habitat, behaviour etc.

KANGAROOS

Kangaroos are marsupials. They are animals which are native to Australia.

Appearance:

Kangaroos can grow to two metres tall. They have brown or grey fur. They have two short front legs and two long back legs. Their tails are very strong and are used for balance.

Habitat:

They live in most areas of Australia.

Feeding Habits:

Kangaroos eat grasses and small plants. They feed at night.

Movements:

Kangaroos hop on their back legs. They can move as fast as 50 kilometres per hour.

Breeding:

Young kangaroos are called 'joeys'. They are very small when they are born and live and develop in their mothers' pouches for about nine months. They drink their mothers' milk.

Language Features

Use of general nouns, e.g. kangaroos

Use of timeless present - typical of much scientific writing, e.g. is, eat, feed

Use of relating verbs, e.g. have, is

Use of adverbial phrases to locate, e.g. in its mother's pouch

Use of adjectives to describe, e.g. small, brown, grey

Use of action verbs to build information, e.g. drinks, eat

Text organisation

Sentences and statements throughout. Focus of information is the kangaroos. The first phrase (grammatical theme) in every sentence refers to kangaroos through repetition of the grammatical theme. This is a reference chain which is an identity chain and helps organise the text. i.e. Kangaroos, They..., Their tails, They..., Young kangaroos, They...

Use of complex sentences, e.g. They are very small when they are born and live and develop in their mothers' pouches for about nine months.