

Information Writing: Language Features

An information text is a structured and well-researched piece of nonfiction writing which provides factual information about a specific topic.

Present Tense



The tense in writing is always related to time i.e. past, present and future.

Present tense uses verbs to describe **things that happen repeatedly in the present** or to share **factual information**.

Examples:

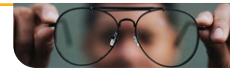
From the moment sea turtles are born, they face dangers.



The Titanic needs to burn 825 tons of coal every day to run its three large steam engines.



3rd Person Perspective



This is all about the perspective you write from.

In **3rd person perspective** you write as though you're an outsider looking in. You'll use pronouns like...

**he she it they him her
them his her hers it its
their theirs themselves itself**

Examples:

The Titanic needed to burn 825 tons of coal every day to run **its** three large steam engines.



The word '**its**' in this sentence is the clue that 3rd person perspective is being used.

Technical Language



Don't simplify your language! Use the technical and detailed vocabulary that is part of your facts and information.

Examples:

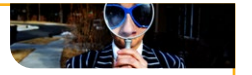
Most rainforests are structured in four layers: emergent (tallest trees), canopy, understory and forest floor.



Top Tip:

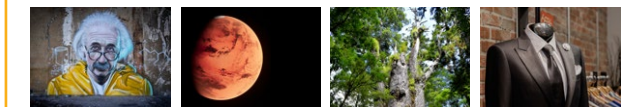
You can use brackets () to drop in a helpful definition or you might want to include a glossary which explains the meaning of any technical words in your writing.

Subject Specific Nouns



A **specific noun** is a word that names a certain person, place, thing, or idea. Replacing general nouns with specific ones will make your writing clearer and more precise for your readers.

	General Noun	More Specific	Most Specific
Person	man	scientist	Albert Einstein
Place	location	planet	Mars
Thing	plant	tree	Kauri
Idea	fashion	clothes	tuxedo



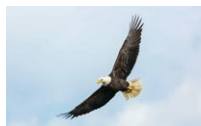
Descriptive Language



A **thesaurus** is your best friend here! If you find yourself repeating one word a lot, find a different word to use. There are so many descriptive synonyms you can choose from that will make your information writing more fresh and interesting.

For Example:

fly (verb) = float, glide, drift, circle, dart, dash, soar.



big (adjective) = enormous, gigantic, hefty, vast, massive, immense.



Transitional Words & Phrases



Use these transitional words and phrases to help you link information and ideas as you're crafting your sentences and paragraphs.

To Add Information or Detail	To Illustrate	To Emphasise	To Generalise	To Conclude
additionally in addition also besides equally important furthermore in addition moreover too again first nevertheless otherwise or second	for example for instance thus in other words as an illustration in particular at other times besides this furthermore however in fact in spite of this similarly to explain to illustrate	above all certainly in essence in fact in other words equally important in contrast most importantly now specifically surely therefore whereas yet	all in all as a rule as usual for the most part generally generally speaking in general on the whole ordinarily typically usually	finally in conclusion last lastly still to wrap it up to conclude