

Explains why or how something happens

Explanation

Why do people need to breathe??

general statements to introduce the topic

In order to stay alive, human beings need a constant supply of **oxygen** (a gas found in the air) to all parts of the body. They also need to rid their bodies of a waste gas called **carbon dioxide**, which would otherwise poison them.

3rd person

These two gases are carried round the body in the blood. **Veins** carry blood to the heart and **arteries** carry blood away from the heart. Both veins and arteries divide into millions of tiny **capillary blood vessels**. Gases can move between the blood in the capillaries and the tiny **cells** which make up the human body.

use of passive voice - formal

time words

series of steps explaining the process in time order

When a *human being* breathes in, the air goes down into the *lungs*, which are like two spongy bags filled with millions of air sacs. Oxygen from the air passes through the sacs into the *capillary blood vessels*. The blood then carries the oxygen through a vein to the heart.

technical words

paragraphs help to separate the different stages

The heart pumps this oxygen-carrying blood around the whole body through arteries which divide into capillaries to reach the body cells. Oxygen passes from the blood to the cells, and carbon dioxide (the waste gas) passed from the cells into the blood. Veins take this waste-carrying blood back to the heart, which pumps it back to the lungs. There the carbon dioxide passes into the air sacs.

present tense

When the human being breathes out, the carbon dioxide is pushed back out into the air. Breathing in and out is therefore essential because it ensures that life-giving oxygen is constantly replaced and poisonous carbon dioxide expelled.

Writing an Explanation - Lower Key Stage 2

- Have I started by introducing what I am writing about? *To stay alive, human beings need oxygen.*
- Have I **explained when** and **why** things happen in a sequence?
- Do my paragraph breaks separate the different stages in this sequence?
- Would bullets or numbering help to make the information clearer?
- Have I used labelled diagrams?
- Do I need any underlined or bold headings or sub-headings?
- Have I used some connectives to explain **cause and effect** like *if, when, because, and so*?
- Have I used the present tense?

1.
2.
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Writing an Explanation - Upper Key Stage 2

- Have I started by introducing the process I am explaining? *To stay alive, human beings need oxygen.*
- Have I **explained when and why** things happen in a sequence?
- Do my paragraph breaks separate the different stages in this sequence?
- Have I used labelled diagrams?
- Do I need any headings or sub-headings? Would bullets or text boxes help to make the information stand out?
- Have I used some **complex sentences** to add detail? *The skin, which is now useless, is shed.*
- Have I used some connectives to explain **cause and effect** and the **sequence** like *if, when, during, might, as a result, and consequently?*
- Have I used precise nouns, verbs and general terms - *humans, mountains, seasons?*
- Have I used the present tense?
- Have I used a formal tone and some passive sentences? *The molecules are affected by ... static is caused by...*