

Text Structures

4th Grade

Five ways non-fiction organises information, and the words that give each away.

Writers choose a structure on purpose. Signal words reveal which one.

Structure	Signal words	Purpose
Description	for example, such as	paint a picture
Sequence	first, next, finally	put things in order
Compare / contrast	however, both, unlike	show similarities and differences
Cause and effect	because, so, as a result	explain why
Problem and solution	problem, solve, answer	present a fix

One article often uses several. Look for the main one, then the smaller ones inside it.