

Welcome to this book

This book will help you revise for the national tests in English at the end of Key Stage 2.

Sample texts help you to identify the features of different text types.

Blue headings show you which topic is covered.

Find out about words in **bold** by turning to the Glossary.

Explaining ideas

After reading a non-fiction text, you may need to discuss or explain your ideas about it. You must show that you have understood the text by giving reasons and referring to the information given.

Be ready to explain fully, using evidence from the text. Go back to check details and find facts to support what you say.


Finding supporting evidence

Even if you are asked to give your views or opinion on a subject, you must still give reasons and fully explain your answer using information from the text to back up your views. You may need to use several pieces of information to support your ideas.

Here is an example of how to use evidence from the text to explain ideas. First read this information about elephants.

There are two types of elephants, the African elephant and the smaller Indian elephant. Elephants are the largest and most powerful land mammals alive today. Despite their huge size they will charge if threatened, although they cannot maintain speed for very long.

Elephants are herbivores (plant eaters), eating grass, twigs, leaves, roots and fruit, which they gather with their trunks. African elephants have long curved tusks, which are actually overgrown front teeth. They use these for digging, finding food and for defence. Unfortunately, in the past African elephants have been hunted to near extinction for the ivory of their tusks...



Think about what you have learnt about elephants from reading the passage. Do you think elephants are dangerous animals? Go back and find evidence in the passage that would help you to decide and give good reasons to support your view.

Of course, you may find equally good evidence that humans are dangerous to elephants.

Test yourself

Answer these questions. Explain fully, referring to the text above.

1. Are elephants dangerous to humans?
2. Are humans dangerous to elephants?

Remember

Explain ideas, giving reasons and using evidence and details from the text.

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Inferring: looking for clues

Sometimes questions cannot be answered by simply scanning and picking out the relevant fact from the text. Sometimes the information you want is not in the actual words on the page.

Instead you need to **infer** or work out the answer from the information you are given. You need to look for clues in the text, thinking about what these suggest and what you already know. Then you can come to a sensible conclusion.

He put on the bright yellow jacket and helmet, checking that the lamp was working.


From the clues in the text and what you know about this sort of equipment you can infer that the man is going into a dark, possibly dangerous place.

Finding clues and suggestions

Sometimes things are suggested or implied in the choice of vocabulary or details given. You need to use these clues to work things out.

In this example from an autobiography, it does not say directly whether the writer enjoyed Mr Green's lessons. But think about what you can infer and which details in the text tell you this.

Time flew in Mr Green's lessons. I would sit mesmerised by the tales he told.



The clues 'time flew' and 'mesmerised' tell you how much the writer enjoyed these lessons because these things are only true when you are really interested.

Inferring reasons

Sometimes reasons are not clearly stated. You need to read the information and fill in the gaps.

Elephants can eat up to 450kg of food a day. That's why many African farmers view elephants with fear and anger.

Can you fill the gap between these two pieces of information? Why do African farmers view elephants with fear and anger? It is not enough to say 'because elephants eat up to 450kg of food a day'.

You need to go beyond that and think about what you already know about what elephants eat and what farmers grow. Your answer might be, 'Because elephants could eat all of the farmer's crop and leave him with no food'.

Test yourself

Today you are unlikely to see an African elephant outside a protected wildlife reserve. Explain why it might be that African elephants live mainly in these reserves. You can refer to the information about elephants on this page and on **page 28** to help you fill the gaps.

Remember

Sometimes you have to use what the text tells you and then use clues to fill in the gaps.

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Test yourself questions to check your understanding (answers are at the back of the book).

Remember boxes summarise important information.

This tells you which pages can help you with this task.

How to revise

- Turn to the topic and read about it.
- Read the Remember box and then cover it up. Can you remember what it says?
- Read the Test yourself questions and write your answers on a piece of paper.
- Check your answers against the right answers at the back of the book.
- If you got any answers wrong, read the topic again, then have another go at the questions.
- If you got all the answers right – well done! Move on to the next topic.
- Once you have worked through this revision guide, move on to the English papers in the **KS2 SATs Maths and English Practice Papers**.

Tips for tests

- Always read the question carefully before you answer it.
- Have a go at as many of the questions as you can. If there is a question you really can't answer, just move on to the next one. You can always come back to it if you have time.
- Look out for questions that ask you to explain. This means that you must give reasons.
- If you have time at the end, check through your work.