



### Alien Explanation

If an alien came down to Earth from another planet he would probably be very confused by a lot of things he would find here.

Look around your house. There are a lot of things in your house that would confuse an alien. You probably take a lot of these things for granted. Things like a television, a video recorder, a computer, a vacuum cleaner, and a washing machine would probably be unknown to the alien.

Imagine an alien did land on Earth and that you made friends with it. Choose an item from your house and explain what it is to an alien. Write your explanation down. Think about what the thing is used for, how you use it and how it works. You could draw a labelled diagram to help you explain things.

#### **Key Features - Explanation**

**Purpose:** to explain how or why something happens

**Example:** an extract from a science textbook

#### **Text Structure**

- Title often asks a question or defines the process to be explained
- Text usually opens with general statement(s) to introduce the topic
- A series of logical steps explaining the process, usually in time order
- Often accompanied by diagram(s)
- Basic skeleton framework – a flowchart

#### **Language features**

- Present tense (the process is general)
- Time connectives and other devices to aid chronological structure
- Causal connectives and other devices demonstrating cause and effect.