

Focus on reading | Text types

Texts have different features of style depending on their purpose and the audience they were written for. For example, a newspaper article written for a general audience is likely to have shorter paragraphs, simpler sentence structure and more informal language than a report in an academic journal written for experts.

EXAM TIP: Recognising a text type quickly helps you read more efficiently in the exam.

1. Match each extract A-D to one of the sources below.

1 Newspaper/magazine

2 Academic journal

3 Advertisement

4 Online encyclopaedia

A

Physical exercise is a bodily activity that develops and maintains physical fitness and overall health. It is often practised to strengthen muscles and the cardiovascular system, and to enhance athletic skills. Regular physical exercise boosts the immune system and helps prevent such conditions as heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and obesity. It also improves mental health and helps prevent depression.

B

The present study was conducted among 92 adolescents living in two rural and two urban areas, with particular focus on the availability of walking trails and cycling tracks. Results revealed that both rural and urban adolescents spent more time engaged in sedentary activities such as watching TV/video and playing TV/data games than on regular physical activity. No differences were observed between the two groups with regard to activity patterns. However, the average distance the urban adolescents walked ...

C

After years of studying numerous nutritional and lifestyle factors for lifetime fitness, researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health have come up with a result. It's the single thing that comes close to a magic bullet in terms of strong and universal health benefits.

Quite simply, it is exercise!

D

.....
Have you ever wished that you could work out in the comfort of your own home, without having to go to the gym? With **Leapfrog** you can. **Leapfrog** is the most technologically advanced home sports equipment available. Every product is the result of millions of dollars of university-based research. Engineering excellence and top quality components mean that Leapfrog equipment needs virtually no maintenance, while each product is fully backed by a 5-year warranty.
.....

2. Answer the following questions. Write the corresponding letter **A-D**.

- 1 Which one is designed to make the reader want to do something? (persuasion)
- 2 Which **two** report on the results of research? (evidence and conclusions)
- 3 Which one sets out to explain a particular expression? (definition)
- 4 Which one compares two groups? (comparison and contrast)

3. Which text A-D contains:

- 1 the shortest paragraph?
- 2 the shortest sentence?
- 3 two examples of the passive voice?
- 4 fairly simple sentences with frequent use of the linking word 'and'?
- 5 a direct question?
- 6 the most formal vocabulary?

4. Look at extract B again and complete the following description of academic English. Choose the correct word.

Academic English is characterised by fairly 1 *formal / informal* grammar and vocabulary. It normally 2 *avoids / includes* colloquial expressions, contractions such as 'isn't' or 'don't' and direct questions. The style is generally 3 *personal / impersonal*, with 4 *few / many* personal pronouns such as 'I' or 'we' and 5 *frequent / infrequent* use of the passive voice. Facts and figures are stated very 6 *precisely / generally*. The organisation is logical and clear.