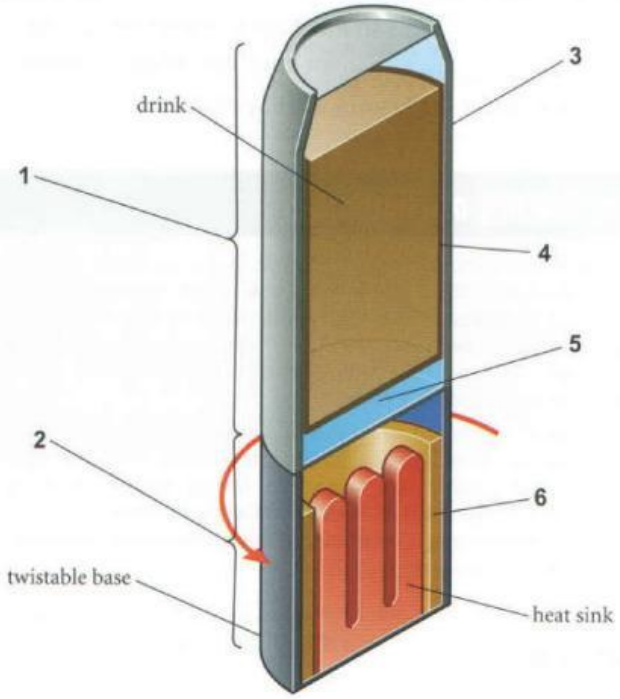
Writing folder 4

Task 1 Describing a process

In Task 1 of the Academic Writing Module candidates may have to describe a process, by referring to a labelled diagram. Remember that for this task you should write at least 150 words. (The description and explanation in 1 and 2 below total 155 words.)

1 **This cut-away diagram shows the inside of a self-cooling drink can, designed by a specialist company. Read the description of the diagram to complete the missing labels.**



Description

The diagram shows a design for a self-cooling drink can. The can consists of two separate sections, with a seal between the two. The drink is held inside the upper section, and the lower section contains a desiccant (or drying material) in a vacuum. The upper section has two compartments: the drink is held within an inner one, and is surrounded by an outer compartment, containing a watery gel.

2 **Now read the explanation opposite of how the cooling process works, choosing suitable verbs from the box to fill the spaces. You will need to use three passive forms.**

absorb	build	cause	cool	evaporate
lead	prevent	result	twist	

Explanation

When the lower part of the can **1** ..... *, the seal breaks. This* **2** ..... *a drop in pressure in the upper section of the can and the water in the outer compartment's gel* **3** ..... *quickly, cooling the drink. Excess water is soaked up by the desiccant, and any heat* **4** ..... *by a sink in the bottom of the can, which* **5** ..... *the can from feeling warm. The company claims that a can of drink* **6** ..... *by 16.7° C in just three minutes.*

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3 **Tick any of the grammatical areas below that have been used in the explanation in exercise 2. All these areas are relevant to Writing Task 1. If necessary, revise their form and use by looking at the Grammar folder.**

- Concessive clause ☐
- Conditional structure ☐
- Passive with agent ☐
- Reference pronoun (to given information) ☐
- Relative clause ☐

4 **Another useful structure for Writing Task 1 is the *-ing* form, which follows several verbs, such as the one in space 5 of exercise 2: … *the can from feeling warm.* Here are some more verbs that can be followed by an *-ing* form. Use each verb once only to complete the sentences. The first one is done for you.**

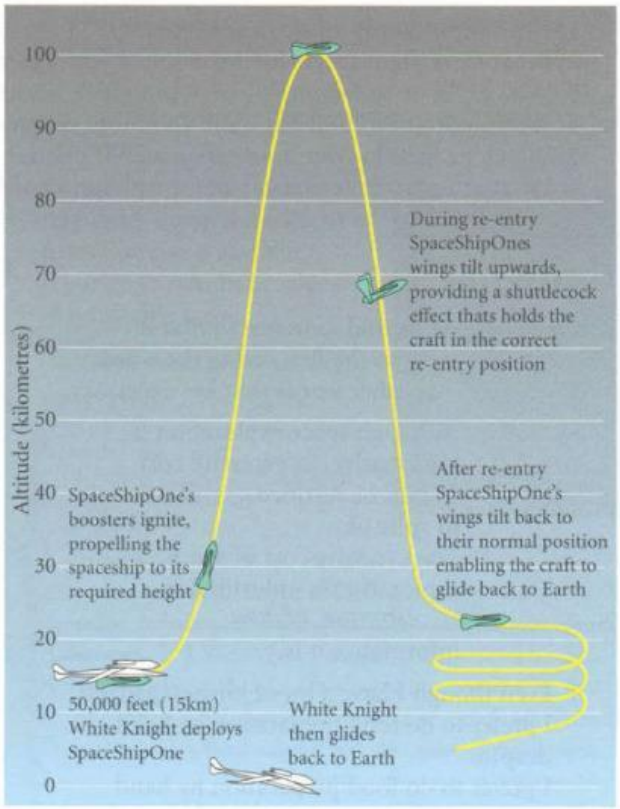
go on	involve	~~mean~~	start	stop

EXAMPLE: A twistable base ....means.... having a can in two sections.

1 The cooling process ..... breaking a vacuum seal.
2 The drink ..... cooling down as soon as the seal is broken.
3 The desiccant ..... soaking up the water until there is none left.
4 A heat sink ..... the can from feeling warm.

5 **An *-ing* form can also be used in place of a relative clause to describe an effect, as in *cooling the drink* in the second sentence of the Explanation in exercise 2. Find three more examples of this use in the diagram below.**

SpaceShipOne, a prototype re-usable spacecraft, transported by a specially designed aircraft, White Knight, to launch height. The diagram shows how it is designed to gain and lose altitude.



6 **Write a paragraph describing the launch and re-entry process for *SpaceShipOne*, using the information provided in the diagram. You should begin with an opening sentence about the craft and its launcher, *White Knight*. Then write a sentence on each stage in the diagram. Write between 100 and 150 words.**

Advice

- Spend a minute looking at the diagram carefully.
- Think about any stages in the process shown.
- Decide on key vocabulary you will need to use.
- Write an opening sentence that introduces the topic clearly. Do NOT lift language from the question.
- Remember to use passive structures and *-ing* forms.
- Use time or sequence markers to organise your writing.

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