

Text Structure and language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Explanation

Statement of phenomenon

Explanation sequence - series of events

THE BEGINNING OF DIGESTION

The adult human usually has 32 teeth, of four basic types. The teeth physically break up our food into smaller pieces.

The tongue is made of muscle. It moves food around the mouth to meet the teeth. Saliva from the salivary glands wets the food when it is in the mouth. Saliva makes the food easy to swallow. It contains salivary amylase which is an enzyme, that starts to break down any carbohydrate in the food.

After the food is chewed it is swallowed and passed through the food pipe (oesophagus) to the stomach. This process is called peristalsis.

Language Features

Use of general nouns, e.g. human tongue

Use of action verbs to build topic information, e.g. break up, moves, wets

Use of classifying adjectives, e.g. adult, salivary

Use of describing adjectives, e.g. four, easy

Use of comparative adjectives, e.g. smaller

Use of time conjunctions, e.g. after

Use of passive voice to change the focus of the grammatical theme, (the first element of the sentence) e.g. Food is chewed. The tongue is made of muscle.

Use of technical vocabulary, e.g. salivary, amylase, peristalsis