

# Explanations

## Does your explanation include...

a question as a title?

a short opening that includes a question?

the stages of the process in chronological order?

technical language for the topic?

diagrams or illustrations with captions?

## Prepositions

on	at	in
to	through	around
under	over	above
below	between	aside

## Subordinating Conjunctions

when before

after while

so because

if as

## Word Bank

explain	reason	process	produces
happens	design	rises	affect
effect	causes	creates	actually
makes	becomes	appears	build
group	complete	centre	various
position	material	important	describe
enough	imagine	particular	increase

## Co-ordinating Conjunctions

and but or

## Fronted Adverbials

In fact,

**On the other hand,**

Similarly,

**To summarise,**

Primarily,

**Until then,**

In addition to this,

**Meanwhile,**

Along this line,

## Examples of Expanded Noun Phrases

a few university students...

her father's oak desk...

his grandmother's diamond ring...

the ins and outs of cricket...

a stack of white paper...

# Explanations

## Key Features

question as a title

a short opening  
that includes a  
question

the stages of  
the process in  
chronological order

technical language  
for the topic

simple layout  
devices to organise  
your text

diagrams or  
illustrations with  
captions

## How Does the Water Cycle Work?

Have you ever looked up at a cloud filled, murky sky and wondered where the clouds and rain come from? It's all part of the amazing natural process called the water cycle. Read on to find out how the immeasurable amount of water on planet Earth is constantly moving up, down and all around.

### Evaporation

When the heat from the sun warms any patch of water, the liquid turns into a gas known as **water vapour**. **Then**, because it is lighter than water, it rises in the air. If the air is warm or there is a draught or breeze, the water **evaporates** even quicker. It even happens on puddles' surfaces. Next time there has been a shower, try and watch the playground dry up.

### Condensation

**While** the **water vapour** continues to rise higher into the sky, it interacts with colder air that cools down the gas. This causes the particles to condense or come together. **After that**, they form microscopic droplets of water. Over time, millions of the droplets gather together and build clouds.

### Precipitation

**As soon as** the combined water droplets reach a certain size, their weight is too great to stay in the air and they fall towards the ground. This is called **precipitation**. If the air is very cold, the water falls as snow, hail or sleet. Otherwise, it falls as rain.

### Collection

Wherever the water lands, this is called the **collection stage** of the water cycle because the water collects or gathers together. Rain and snow may return to Earth in rivers or lakes, on the ground, or on houses and roads. Most of it soaks down into the ground or moves towards the **larger bodies of water nearby**. **Eventually**, most of this water flows into the sea. The water cycle can now start again from any place where water has collected, even from your soaking wet hair!

