Unit 1 Looking closer at non-fiction

The features of non-fiction

1 Identify each of these non-fiction text types.

a Grizzly bears are specially adapted to survive the changing seasons. During warmer months, they eat a massive amount of food so they can live off their body fat during the winter, when food is scarce. They have an intake of about 40 kg (90 lbs) of food per day, gaining over 1 kg (2.2 lbs) of body weight a day.

b Huge Typhoon Hits Japan

Much of Japan was shut down this week, as Typhoon Neoguri battered parts of the country.

Winds of more than 250 km/h hit the Japanese coast at the start of the week. Typhoon Neoguri—a tropical storm with high winds and heavy rain—got weaker before hitting land, but was still extremely dangerous.

As First News went to press, hundreds of thousands of people were leaving their homes and fearing the worst.

c Have you ever wondered why the ocean is blue? Why isn’t it purple, red or yellow? To understand why the ocean is blue, we need to explore how light works. The light that shines down from the sun is called white light but it is actually made up of a rainbow of colours: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

d When I write I can shake off all my cares. My sorrow disappears, my spirits are revived! But, and that’s a big question, will I ever be able to write something great, will I ever become a journalist or a writer? I hope so, oh, I hope so very much.

e Fill a small pan just over one third full with cold water and bring it to the boil. Add the vinegar and turn down to simmer. Crack the eggs one at a time into a small bowl and gently tip into the simmering water.
A newspaper report

1. Read this newspaper report and answer the questions below.

Young boy saves family from house fire in Madison County

A.J. Rollins, 11, says he woke up early Wednesday morning and noticed smoke and flames in his family’s home on Will Arrington Road in Marshall. “I woke up and it was right in front of me,” A.J. said. “I just ran through the hallways and started waking everybody up.”

A.J. says the fire grew bigger as the family rushed to get out. “Just big flames everywhere,” he told us.

The home is destroyed, but A.J.’s parents say they consider their family lucky. “I don’t believe anyone would have survived if it hadn’t been for A.J. waking up,” said Dwayne Rollins, A. J.’s father.

The Arrington Branch Baptist Church in Marshall is collecting donations to help get the family back on their feet.

1. Write an alternative headline for the report.

2. Write brief comments from two other people that could be included in the report.
   For example: Next door neighbour, Celia Rawlings said, ‘I thought I smelled burning, but just assumed my husband had burned the toast, but as the smell became stronger I realised something very serious was happening …’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments from a first person that could be included</th>
<th>Comments from a second person that could be included</th>
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<tbody>
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3. List three differences between a newspaper report and a diary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper report</th>
<th>Diary</th>
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Meaning and spelling of connectives

1. Match a connective to its purpose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of connectives</th>
<th>Connective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adding on information</td>
<td>also</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giving examples</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Changing/contrasting ideas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordering ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emphasising ideas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summing up points</td>
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</table>

to sum up, so, for instance, also, so far, furthermore, in conclusion, in particular, such as, alternatively, secondly, overall, next, in addition, for example, as well as, in summary, again, therefore, nevertheless, consequently, as a result, however, but, on the other hand, firstly, meanwhile, in fact, importantly

2. Use these connectives in sentences of your own. You will need to write more than one sentence to show that you can link and connect points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>as a result</th>
<th>furthermore</th>
<th>on the other hand</th>
<th>to sum up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

For example, We won the football game. As a result, we have come top of the school league.

a. __________________________
b. __________________________
c. __________________________
d. __________________________

3. Write out instructions on how to wash your hands. How many connectives can you use?

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
Complex sentences

1. Circle the main clause and underline the subordinate clause in these sentences.
   a. Mateo did not go to school because he was ill.
   b. Zara said she enjoyed doing mathematics, although she finds it difficult.
   c. Despite being well behaved, Teresa was told off by the teacher.
   d. Although she had not revised as much as she should, Aaliyah got top marks in the English examination.
   e. We will have to stay inside if it rains all day.
   f. I was soon completely lost because I had forgotten the map.
   g. They continued to hunt for survivors until it was dark.
   h. I walked home when it was light.
   i. We would have gone for a picnic if the weather had been fine.

2. Re-write each of the sentences above so that they begin with a subordinate clause. You will need to use a comma to mark it off from the rest of the sentence. The first one has been done for you.
   a. *Because he was ill, Mateo did not go to school.*
   b. ____________________________
   c. ____________________________
   d. ____________________________
   e. ____________________________
   f. ____________________________
   g. ____________________________
   h. ____________________________
   i. ____________________________

3. Complete these complex sentences so that you explain or describe what is happening at that moment. They all begin with a non-finite clause. Remember to add a comma to mark off the clause. The first one has been done for you:
   a. *Waving his arms wildly, the man ran out of the house.*
   b. Running fast ____________________________
   c. Crabbing the driving wheel ____________________________
   d. Surprised by what he had seen ____________________________
   e. Tiptoeing cautiously ____________________________
   f. Watched by his family and friends ____________________________
More complex sentences

1. Underline the verb in each of the sentences below.
   a. The boy kicked the football along the street.
   b. The angry child stamped her foot on the path.
   c. The large boy grabbed Ian by the arm.
   d. Owls have good eyesight.
   e. The girl hurried towards school.

2. Start each of the above sentences with a non-finite form of the verb, and add additional information. Remember to use a comma to mark off the non-finite clause. The first one has been done for you.
   a. Kicking the ball along the street, the boy made his way home.
   b. _________________________________
   c. _________________________________
   d. _________________________________
   e. _________________________________

3. Insert the four missing commas in this newspaper report.

   Why it’s Not Cool to Be Cool

   Do you ever feel frustrated that you’re not one of the coolest kids at your school?

   If you do don’t worry because you may be better off!

   Researchers have found that the less cool kids at school (and children who find it more of a challenge to fit in) are often more successful in later life compared to the more popular kids.

   After following 184 teenagers for ten years researchers at the University of Virginia found that by the age of 23 the less cool or geeky kids were more successful in terms of social skills. By being too focused on being cool cool kids would seem to lose out in later life!
Features of a newspaper report

1. Read this newspaper article about a new theme park.

**Star turn: world gets first sports theme park**

If you’ve ever wondered what it’s like to run a 100 metre sprint alongside Usain Bolt or ride in the peloton in the Tour de France, you will be able to find out at Open Camp, the world’s first sports theme park. 7000 visitors a day are expected to visit the theme park when it opens in Barcelona next year.

Simulators and other forms of interactive technology will give visitors the thrill of being a downhill skier or a top football player. There will even be medal ceremonies with flags and podiums. ‘We will film it using cameras and drones and a full production team so that you can relive the experience on television at home,’ the organisers say.

Every night between June and September there will be a full scale closing ceremony with winners mounting the podium to receive their medals.

The park, covering an area of 95,000 sq. metres, will be on Montjuic, a hill near the city centre. It will use the Olympic stadium and other facilities built for the 1992 Olympic games. The upgrade will cost 20 million Euros (£15.8m); it is expected to create 240 jobs and bring an estimated £53 million to the city.

A full price ticket of £45 allows you to participate in a game of football or basketball, run a 1500 metre race or take part in an Olympic discipline. The basic entrance fee will be £28, similar to most theme parks. Tickets will go on sale via a mobile app that will also serve as a guide to the theme park.

Francesc Medina, the plan’s promoter, has coined the term ‘sportainment’ for the park, emphasising that ‘it is for everyone’. They expect 7000 visitors a day to take part in the 56 activities on offer.

2. Answer the following questions.
   a. Why does the headline include the phrase, ‘star turn’?
   b. Underline two quotations in the report which best explain why the theme park is called Open Camp.
   c. Circle the paragraph that gives the summary of the story: 1 2 3 4 5 6
   d. Give three pieces of evidence from the text which shows that Open Camp is technologically advanced.
   e. How is Open Camp able to offer a skiing experience?
Presenting a newspaper report

1. Read the newspaper report on page 7 again. Give three reasons why visitors might want to go to Open Camp.

2. Imagine you have been asked to present ‘Open Camp’ as part of the television news. You only have a 30 second slot, so will need to select the most essential information (the facts).

   Use the following table to select key information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is Open Camp?</th>
<th>Where is it being built?</th>
<th>Why is it special?</th>
<th>Who is it for?</th>
<th>How much did it cost?</th>
<th>When is it opening?</th>
<th>Promoter comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3. Write your report here. Remember, the slot is only 30 seconds long.

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

   Tips

   You will need to ensure that:
   - all the key information is included
   - key words and phrases are underlined, to help you remember to emphasise these a little more
   - you don’t just read from your notes. Remember to look at the ‘audience’ now and again!
   - you read at the right pace and don’t mumble.