

Narrative and Expository Texts

Listening to and reading both types of texts helps students:

- comprehend a variety of written materials
- build and extend background knowledge about a variety of topics
- develop vocabulary
- make connections to real-life experiences
- learn how different texts are organized and written
- distinguish different genres

Narrative Texts	Expository Texts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell stories that usually follow a familiar story structure• Usually include the following story elements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">CharactersSettingPlotResolutionTheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also referred to as information books• Explain information or tell about topics in different ways• Contain structures that can differ from one text to another and within a single passage (e.g., problem-solution, compare-contrast, description, persuasion)• Help students comprehend content-area textbooks

Different Types of Expository Texts

Types	Prompts	Key Words
Descriptive	Does the text tell what something is?	
Sequence	Does the text tell how to do something or make something?	first, second, next, then, finally
Cause/Effect	Does the text give reasons for why something happens?	because, then, so, therefore, for this reason, results, since, reasons, effects, consequences, in order, thus
Problem/Solution	Does the text state a problem and offer solutions to the problem?	
Compare/Contrast	Does the text show how two things are alike or different?	same, similar, although, however, on the other hand, but, yet, still, rather, than, instead of
Enumeration or Categorizing	Does the text give a list of things that are related to a topic?	an example, for instance, another, next, finally

Adapted from Blachowicz, C., & Ogle, D. (2001). *Reading comprehension: Strategies for independent learners*. New York: Guilford Press; Westby, C. (1999). Assessing and facilitating text comprehension problems. In H. Catts & A. G. Kamhi (Eds.), *Language and reading disabilities* (pp. 154-219). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon.