



Use of English Text Structure Unit 18-2

Students learn to recognise the logical flow of ideas through a text. They learn how different text types are organised.

Objective: Explanation text structure

An explanation may use **time**, **priority** and **comparison** to link points, and will certainly include **causal connectives**.

Task: Read the text below. The paragraphs are in the wrong order. Write the numbers 1 - 5 in the boxes to sequence the paragraphs correctly.

'The End of Pompeii'

We now know that the cloud Pliny saw was a 20 km high column of volcanic material erupting from the mountain. Carried by the wind, ash and pumice from the cloud rained down on Pompeii. Since this – though alarming - was not especially life-threatening, some citizens must have decided to shelter in the city till it was over.

This decision cost them their lives. As the column gradually collapsed, it produced a 'pyroclastic flow'. This was an immensely hot avalanche of ash, pumice and gas, that raced down the mountain to engulf the city. It could have reached a speed of 100km/hour, which meant that no one in its path stood a chance of escape.

Much of what we know about the eruption of AD79 comes from two letters written by Pliny the Younger, who was then at his uncle's house by the Bay of Naples. From his accounts, and from archaeological and geological evidence, scientists have deduced what happened, and why the eruption caused such devastation.

The dual-stage nature of the eruption explains why most of the bodies found at Pompeii lay on top of the layer of ash and pumice; they belong to people who survived the rain of ash only to be asphyxiated by fumes during the pyroclastic stage. They were discovered centuries later, lying where they had fallen.

Pliny reports that the first sign of the eruption was a vast cloud, like a pine tree above the mountain. Soon, ashes, pumice and bits of rock began to fall, while the ground shook. Pliny's uncle, who had gone to investigate, was overcome by poisonous fumes and died.