

# Vocabulary

## Booster 5: Explanatory words

### Key learning

Writers use certain words to give more detail and explain something. An instructive text uses straightforward and specific words, while explanatory texts give more detail to help the reader to understand something.

The words used could be descriptive words such as adjectives (for example, 'her **late** reply') or adverbs (for example, 'she replied **quickly**'), or they could be explanatory words such as 'this is because' or 'the reason is'. For example:

You must reply to any work-related emails within 24 hours of receipt. **This is because** we have made a pledge to improve communication.

On its own, the first sentence is instructional, but the explanation of why you must reply to emails within 24 hours is signalled by the words 'This is because'.

### Worked example:

Underline the words that **explain** in the following text:

Knowing your heart rate is helpful when starting an exercise programme. It will allow you to see how fit you are and how quickly you can recover.

### Answer:

Knowing your heart rate is helpful when starting an exercise programme. It will allow you to see how fit you are and how quickly you can recover.

The sentence beginning 'It will allow you' explains why knowing your heart rate is useful. Without these words the text is not as explanatory.

### Your turn:

Identify the words that **explain** in the following sentences:

1. Encouraging health and safety awareness is important as it should help minimise near misses and accidents.
2. Revealing information about yourself online can be dangerous because there are people who can take advantage of this.
3. Ed is looking for another job in order to further his career.