Weekly focus: non-chronological reports

Over the last two weeks, you learnt all about non-chronological reports and wrote some fantastic reports about Viking warriors! This week, you're going to be using everything you learnt to write a non-chronological report about the topic of your choice.
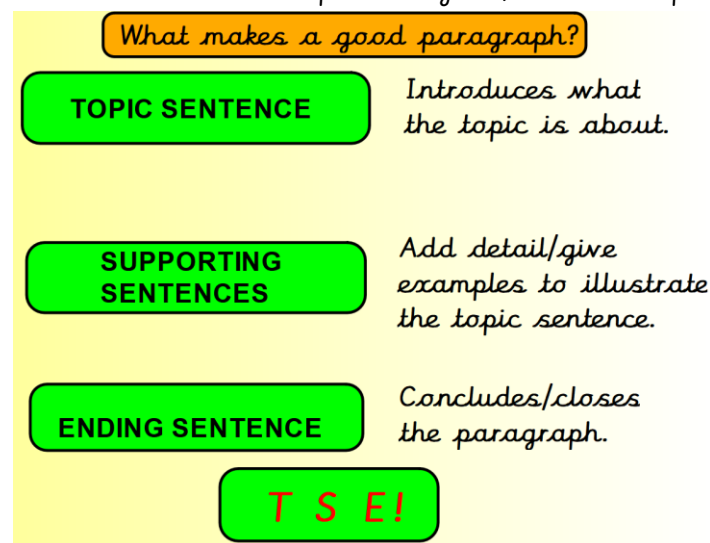
Monday 8th February 2021
WALT: plan by organising information

Before you start this piece of work, please make sure you have completed Task 1 from Guided Reading, which is researching information about your chosen topic. You'll need your research next to you for this lesson.

Task 1 – Nasty Writing

Since we'll be using TSE to write our reports again, let's recap what it is!

This introduction has been all scrambled up! Rewrite the sentences in your home learning journal so that the topic sentence, supporting sentences and ending sentence is in the right order.

Keep reading to find out how to look after these fabulous felines. Cats are cute, cuddly creatures with many different personalities. Although they've made a name for themselves as independent pets who go their own way, they need more care and attention than you might think.

How did you do? This is the order the sentences should be in!

1. Cats are cute, cuddly creatures with many different personalities. – *Topic sentence – this tells the reader that the report is going to be about cats.*

2. Although they've made a name for themselves as independent pets who go their own way, they need more care and attention than you might think. – *Supporting sentence – this links to the previous sentence, giving more information about cats.*

3. Keep reading to find out how to look after these fabulous felines. – *Ending sentence – this tells the reader that the rest of the report will be about looking after cats.*

Task 2 – Write a plan for your report

Next, you are going to write your plan for your report, just like you did for your report on Viking warriors. You will need the information that you gathered in Guided Reading and the plan template on the next page.

Let's have a look at how to turn our notes into a useful plan – I'll show you how to do this for the introduction, like I did before. I've chosen to write about the Sims 4. I need to use the 'general information' section of my notes for this:

General Information about the Sims 4
• Life simulation computer game • Single player • Suitable for age 12 and over • 10 different expansion packs • Create a Sim character – looks, personality, ambitions • Build and furnish houses • Explore different worlds

First, I need to reread my notes and think of a heading for my report. I want something that will make people want to read my report.

Heading: Create Life with the Sims 4

Next, I need to decide what my **topic sentence** will be about. It needs to introduce what my report is about. I'm going to use a bullet point to make a note of that under the 'T' in my plan.

After that, I need to decide what notes I'm going to use for my **supporting sentences**. These need to explain my topic sentence more. I need 1 – 4 bullet points. I'm going to make a note of them under the 'S' in my plan.

Then, I need to make a note of what my **ending sentence** will be. It needs to sum up what I've already written or give the reader a hint as to what's coming next. I'm going to make a note of it under the 'E' in my plan.

Paragraph 1 – Introduction about the Sims 4

T
    • Single player, life simulation computer game
S
    • Create a Sim character – looks, personality, ambitions
    • Build and furnish houses
    • Explore different worlds
E
• Read to discover how to create life

Now it's your turn! Fill out your plan using your notes, thinking about TSE, like I have just done. Make sure you use bullet points.

Heading:

Paragraph 1 – Introduction about _____

T

S

E

Paragraph 2 – _____
Subheading:

T

S

E

Paragraph 3 – _____
Subheading:

T

S

E

WALT: write by organising paragraphs around a theme

Today, you're going to write and edit the introduction to your report on your chosen topic. Here is our success criteria:

Heading and subheadings	
TSE paragraph structure	
Informal vocabulary	
Topic specific vocabulary	
Co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions	
Possessive apostrophes	
Pronouns to avoid repetition	
Consistent use of the past or present tense	

Notice how it's almost the same as the success criteria for your Viking warrior reports? The first difference is that 'Viking vocabulary' has become 'topic specific vocabulary' since we're not writing about the Vikings anymore. For me, this will be vocabulary relating specifically to the Sims 4 (like 'Create a Sim', 'Build Mode', 'Simoleons'), since that's what I'm writing about.

The second difference is that it now says 'consistent use of the past or present tense' instead of past tense, as you won't necessarily be writing about something that happened in the past. 'Consistent use of' means you need to pick a tense and stick to it. I'll be writing in the present tense because people still play the Sims 4 today.

Task 1 – Nasty Writing

Let's recap the different types of tenses we have learnt so far!

	Present	Past
Simple	Shows that the verb (action) happens regularly. I **work** in London. She **wears** dresses.	Shows that the verb (action) was completed, often (but not always!) using **-ed**. I **worked** in London. She **wore** a dress.
Progressive	Shows that the verb (action) is ongoing, using **is/am/are** and **-ing**. I **am** work**ing** in London. She **is** wear**ing** a dress.	Shows that the verb (action) was ongoing, using **was/were** and **-ing**. I **was** work**ing** in London. She **was** wear**ing** a dress.
Perfect	Shows that it started in the past but is still relevant to the present, using **'have'/'has'**. I **have** worked in London before. She **has** already worn a dress this week.	Shows that it happened up until a certain point in the past, using **'had'**. I **had** worked in London until last week. She **had** worn a dress to the prom.

Confused? Watch this video about tenses:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GAjEdOiNaI&feature=emb_logo

Change these sentences from the past tense to the present tense:
1. You walked through the park.
2. I was playing with my toys.
3. I had left my bags at the airport.

How did you do? Check your answers!
1. You **walk** through the park.
2. I **am** playing with my toys.
3. I **have** left my bags at the airport.

Task 2 – Write the introduction to your non-chronological report

Yesterday, you wrote a fabulous plan that hopefully has all the information you need to write your report. Let's see how we can turn this into a paragraph. Here's my introduction section for my plan:

Heading: Create Life with the Sims 4
Paragraph 1 – Introduction about the Sims 4

T
 	
   • Single player, life simulation computer game
 	
S
 	
   • Create a Sim character – looks, personality, ambitions
   • Build and furnish houses
   • Explore different worlds
 	
E
 	
   • Read to discover how to create life

I've already thought of my heading and ordered my information thinking about TSE, so the hardest job is already done! I'm going to concentrate on making sure I'm writing in sentences that make sense, that I'm adding more detail to what's in my plan and that I'm starting to use the other parts of the success criteria.

Heading and subheadings	
TSE paragraph structure	
Informal vocabulary	
Topic specific vocabulary	
Co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions	
Possessive apostrophes	
Pronouns to avoid repetition	
Consistent use of the past or present tense	

Create Life with the Sims 4

The Sims 4 is a single player, life simulation computer game that allows you to play God! In the game, you can create a Sim character, choosing their looks, personality, and their ambition in life. Will they be a doctor or a villain? The choice is yours! You can also build and furnish houses in a variety of different worlds, from the desert to the mountains of Japan. Read on to discover how you can create life!

Notice how the main bulk of my paragraph is taken from my plan? I've just added in some informal, chatty language and more detail. Remember that an introduction doesn't go into anything too specific, it's just gives the reader a general idea of what the report is about.

Task 3 – Edit your introduction

Your final task for today is to reread your introduction and edit it! First, tick off the parts of the success criteria you have used. I have colour-coded mine to help you:

Create Life with the Sims 4

The Sims 4 is a single player, life simulation computer game that allows you to play God! In the game, you can create a Sim character, choosing their looks, personality, and their ambition in life. Will they be a doctor or a villain? The choice is yours! You can also build and furnish houses in a variety of different worlds, from the desert to the mountains of Japan. ~~Read on to discover how you can create life!~~ (MI)

(MI) If you want to discover how to create life, read on!

Heading and subheadings	✓
TSE paragraph structure	✓
Informal vocabulary	✓
Topic specific vocabulary	✓
Co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions	✓
Possessive apostrophes	
Pronouns to avoid repetition	✓
Consistent use of the past or present tense	✓

Ah, so now that I've reread my writing, I've realised I haven't used any possessive apostrophes, so I'll make sure I use them in my other paragraphs. I've also noticed that I haven't used any subordinating conjunctions, so I've edited one in.

Wednesday 10th February 2021
WALT: write by organising paragraphs around a theme

Task 1 - Nasty Writing

Possessive apostrophes are part of your success criteria again this week, so let's recap what they are!

Rules for Possessive Apostrophes

- If the root word doesn't end in an 's', then you need to add an apostrophe and an 's'. This is often the case with singular nouns (one thing).
  Example: Freya's brother
- If the root word already ends in an 's', then you just need to add an apostrophe on the end. This is often the case with plural nouns (more than one thing).
  Example: The Vikings' longships

For more explanation of possessive apostrophes, please follow this link:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwwxnb/articles/zx9ydxs

Try putting the possessive apostrophe in the right place in the phrases below.

1. The mans hat
2. Lots of flowers stems
3. Marys cat
4. Lewis rabbit

Task 2 - Write the second paragraph of your non-chronological report

Let's see how we can turn this into a paragraph. Here's my second paragraph section for my plan:

Paragraph 2 - Creating Sims
Subheading: Unleash your Creativity with Create-a-Sim
T • Create-a-Sim - make Sims, aliens, and pets S • Looks and clothing - can download mods • Personality traits - foodie, genius, evil • Aspirations - master chef, computer whiz, public enemy E   • Map out their destiny

I've already thought of my heading and ordered my information thinking about TSE, so the hardest job is already done! I'm going to concentrate on making sure I'm writing in sentences that make sense, that I'm adding more detail to what's in my plan and that I'm using the other parts of the success criteria, focusing on what I may have missed (like my possessive apostrophe!).

<u>Unleash your Creativity with Create-a-Sim</u>

Create-a-Sim is an awesome tool in the Sims 4 that allows you to make Sims, pets and even aliens! You can customise their looks and clothing, giving them a unique sense of style. Although there are loads of pre-made outfits to choose from, you can also download free mods to get even more choices! As well as this, you can choose your Sims' personality traits before choosing an aspiration for them. There are traits ranging from good to evil, neat to slob, cheerful to gloomy and aspirations ranging from master chef to public enemy – the choice is yours! Your choices help to map out their destiny.

Now it's your turn! Write the second paragraph of your report, using your success criteria and your plan.

If you're feeling stuck about what any of the success criteria means, use the support sheet on the very last page of this Writing booklet.

<u>Task 3 – Edit your second paragraph</u>

Your final task for today is to reread your second paragraph and edit it! First, tick off the parts of the success criteria you have used. I have colour-coded some of mine to help you:

Unleash your Creativity with Create-a-Sim

Create-a-Sim is an awesome tool in the Sims 4 that allows you to make Sims, pets and even aliens! You can customise their looks and clothing, giving them a unique sense of style. Although there are loads of pre-made outfits to choose from, you can also download free mods to get even more choices! As well as this, you can

M1 ~~choose~~ your Sims' personality traits before ~~choosing~~ M2 an aspiration for them. There are traits ranging from good to evil, neat to slob, cheerful to gloomy and aspirations ranging from master chef to public enemy – the choice is yours! Your

M3 ~~choices~~ help to map out their destiny.

(M1) pick
(M2) selecting
(M3) decisions

Heading and subheadings	✓
TSE paragraph structure	✓
Informal vocabulary	✓
Topic specific vocabulary	✓
Co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions	✓
Possessive apostrophes	✓
Pronouns to avoid repetition	✓
Consistent use of the past or present tense	✓

This time, I've managed to get everything on my success criteria but I've noticed that I repeat the words 'choose' and 'choices' a lot, so I've edited my paragraph to use synonyms so that it's not so repetitive.

Now edit yours, using your success criteria. Afterwards, read it to someone else to check that it makes sense. Edit it again if it doesn't make sense.

<u>Thursday 11th February 2021</u>
<u>WALT: write by organising paragraphs around a theme</u>
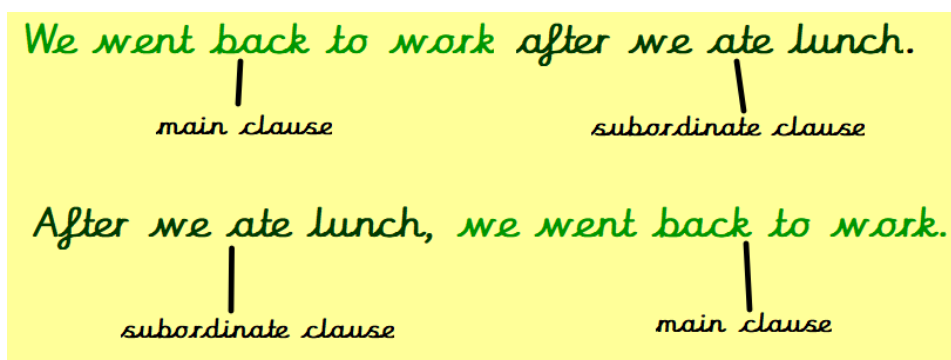
<u>Task 1 – Nasty Writing</u>

Part of your success criteria this week is to use co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions.

Co-ordinating conjunctions join two main clauses together (clauses that CAN stand alone as sentences).
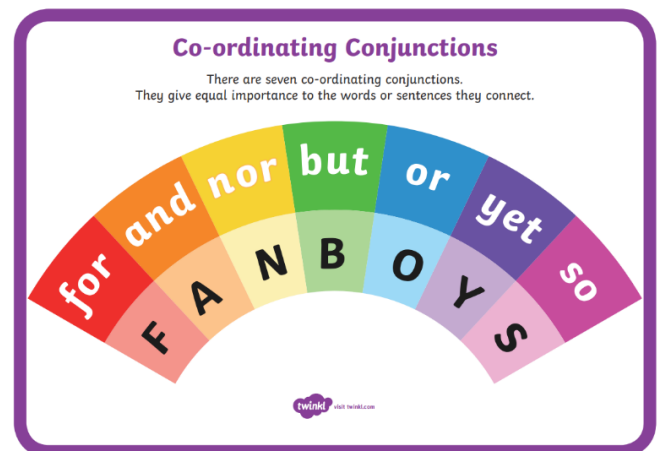
I like drawing but I prefer writing.

Subordinating conjunctions join main clauses to subordinate clauses (clauses that CAN'T stand alone as a sentence).
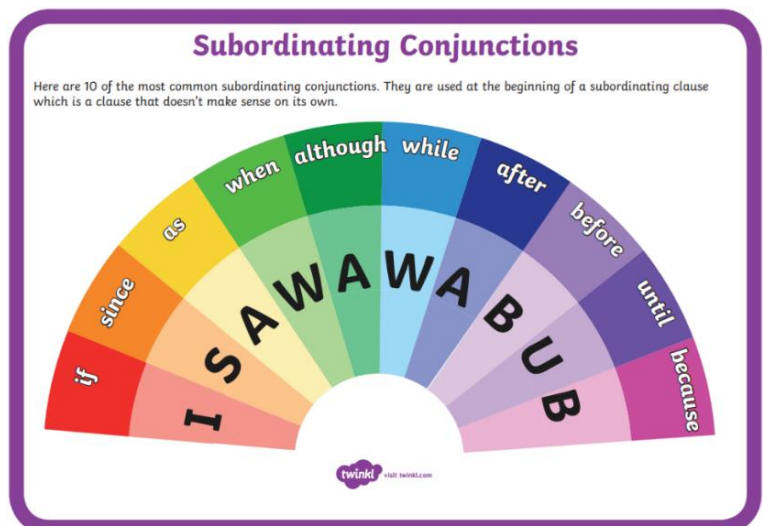
We went back to work after we ate lunch.
main clause   subordinate clause

After we ate lunch, we went back to work.
subordinate clause   main clause

Use a co-ordinating conjunction to join a main clause to the main clause below:

I love playing chess _____

_____

_____.

Co-ordinating Conjunctions

There are seven co-ordinating conjunctions.
They give equal importance to the words or sentences they connect.

for and nor but or yet so
F A N B O Y S

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Use a subordinating conjunction to join a subordinate clause to the main clause below

I go to the park _____

_____

_____.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Here are 10 of the most common subordinating conjunctions. They are used at the beginning of a subordinating clause which is a clause that doesn't make sense on its own.

if since as when although while after before until because
I S A W A W A B U B

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<u>Task 2 - Write the third paragraph of your non-chronological report</u>

Let's see how we can turn this into a paragraph. Here's my third paragraph section for my plan:

Paragraph 3 - Build Mode
Subheading: Become an Architect with Build Mode

T
 	
   • Build Mode - build, edit and furnish houses, restaurants, shops
S
 	
   • Use pre-made rooms or houses or start from scratch
   • Different styles in different worlds
   • Newcrest - empty world
   • Lot traits - increases skills or causes problems
E
 	
   • Be as original as you like!

I've already thought of my heading and ordered my information thinking about TSE, so the hardest job is already done! I'm going to concentrate on making sure I'm writing in sentences that make sense, that I'm adding more detail to what's in my plan and that I'm using the other parts of the success criteria, focusing on what I may have missed.

<u>Become an Architect with Build Mode</u>
Another cool feature of the Sims 4 is that you can build, edit, and furnish houses, restaurants, shops and more by using Build Mode. You can use pre-made houses that already exist, import buildings from the gallery, piece together pre-made rooms or build your own fancy structure from scratch. There's the choice of fitting in with the style of a pre-existing world, like the Tudor houses of Windenburg, or filling up the empty world of Newcrest with your own unique taste. After you've built your house, you can give it a lot trait, which can increase your Sims' skills or cause problems like infested it with gremlins. You have the freedom to be as original as you like!

Now it's your turn! Write the second paragraph of your report, using your success criteria and your plan.

If you're feeling stuck about what any of the success criteria means, use the support sheet on the very last page of this Writing booklet.

Task 3 – Edit your third paragraph

Your final task for today is to reread your third paragraph and edit it! First, tick off the parts of the success criteria you have used. I have colour-coded some of mine to help you:

Became an Architect with Build Made

Another cool feature of the Sims 4 is that you can build, edit, and furnish houses, restaurants, shops and more by using Build Mode. You can use pre-made houses that already exist, import buildings from the gallery, piece together pre-made rooms or build your own fancy structure from scratch. There's the choice of fitting in with the style of a pre-existing world, like the Tudor houses of Windenburg, or filling up the empty world of Newcrest with your own unique taste. After you've built your house, you can give it a lot trait, which can increase your Sims' skills or cause problems like ~~infested~~ MI it with gremlins. You have the freedom to be as original as you like!

(MI) infesting

Heading and subheadings	✓
TSE paragraph structure	✓
Informal vocabulary	✓
Topic specific vocabulary	✓
Co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions	✓
Possessive apostrophes	✓
Pronouns to avoid repetition	✓
Consistent use of the past or present tense	

This time, I have used most of success criteria, but I haven't consistently used the present tense! I accidentally slipped into the past tense, so I've edited it to make present tense again.

Now edit yours, using your success criteria. Afterwards, read it to someone else to check that it makes sense. Edit it again if it doesn't make sense.

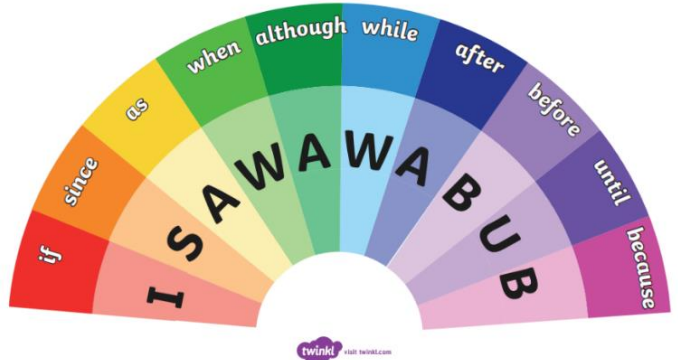And now you've finished your report, well done!

Conjunctions

Co-ordinating Conjunctions

There are seven co-ordinating conjunctions.
They give equal importance to the words or sentences they connect.

for and nor but or yet so

FANBOYS

Subordinating Conjunctions

Here are 10 of the most common subordinating conjunctions. They are used at the beginning of a subordinating clause which is a clause that doesn't make sense on its own.

if since as when although while after before until because

ISAWAWABUB

Possessive apostrophes

Apostrophes that show who something belongs to.

- **Example:** Freya's brother
- **Example:** The Vikings' longships

Pronouns to avoid repetition

Instead of writing something like this:

The Vikings came from Scandinavia and the Vikings invaded many countries around Europe.

You replace the repeated noun with a pronoun:

The Vikings came from Scandinavia and they invaded many countries around Europe.

Tenses

	Present	Past
Simple	Shows that the verb (action) happens regularly. I work in London. She wears dresses.	Shows that the verb (action) was completed, often (but not always!) using -ed. I worked in London. She wore a dress.
Progressive	Shows that the verb (action) is ongoing, using is/am/are and -ing. I am working in London. She is wearing a dress.	Shows that the verb (action) was ongoing, using was/were and -ing. I was working in London. She was wearing a dress.
Perfect	Shows that it started in the past but is still relevant to the present, using 'have'/'has'. I have worked in London before. She has already worn a dress this week.	Shows that it happened up until a certain point in the past, using 'had'. I had worked in London until last week. She had worn a dress to the prom.