

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

Text Structure - Information Report

General statement - identifies and classifies the subject

Description - includes history, population, landmarks

ATHENS

Athens is situated in Greece and is also the capital. It is one of the oldest cities in the world and was the site of the Ancient Olympics. Greek scholars have made major contributions to the development of Western thought in many areas, including architecture, science and engineering, mathematics, the arts and philosophy.

The history of Athens is very long. The area has been inhabited for around 5000 years. Around the third century BC Persians invaded this area but were expelled within a year. In 338 BC the Macedonians captured Athens and for the next 250 years the city was politically very unstable. In the fourth century AD the Romans conquered the city and ruled all of Greece for many years.

During the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Athens was invaded by many groups. Eventually it was captured by the Turks and came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. Although many battles were fought between the Greeks and the Turks, it was only in the nineteenth century that the Greeks fought successfully against the Turks in the Greek War of Independence. Athens became the capital for the first time and Greece was ruled by Prince Otto of Bavaria.

During World War 2 Athens was occupied by the Germans and many people suffered but the city and its wonderful ancient buildings survived. Today Athens is the modern centre of Greece.

About 3 million people now live in Athens. It is a city which many tourists visit because of its long history. It also has many ancient buildings and structures, for example temples and aqueducts.

The Acropolis is one of the main attractions in Athens. It is on a hill and is the highest ancient structure in Athens. The gateway to the Acropolis is very beautiful and is called the Parthenon.

Language Features

Use of timeless present typical of much scientific writing, e.g. Athens is situated in Greece, many tourists visit

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. unstable, captured, invaded, expelled, battles

Use of relating verbs, e.g. is also the capital, was the site, has many ancient buildings and structures

Use of action verbs, e.g. grew, fought, ruled

Use of passive voice, e.g. was captured, was damaged, were expelled

Use of general nouns, e.g. tourists

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. many ancient buildings and structures, the highest ancient structure in Athens

Use of complex and compound sentences

Use of topic sentences to organise bundles of information, e.g. The history of Athens is very long. The Acropolis is one of the main attractions in Athens.