University Centre Abdelhafid Boussouf
E-learning Centre

English – Level 3

– Lesson 3 –
Text Types

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Objectives of the Lesson

➢ To introduce you to the different text types you may come across.

➢ To highlight the characteristics of each type.

➢ To help you distinguish between these types when reading or writing.

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Text Types:

Text types are basic writing styles that seek to narrate, describe, instruct, explain, inform or persuade the reader. There are five main types as shown in the following table:

Text Type	Definition	Characteristics	Examples
Narrative	It is a text type that narrates an event, either imaginary or real.	-The indication of settings. -The sequence of events using adverbs (first, second, then, next, finally). -The use of dynamic verbs (verbs that show a physical action). -The use of past tenses.	-Fictional: novels, short stories. -Nonfictional: reports, newspapers.
Descriptive	It is a text type that describes a person, a place or a thing.	-The use of state verbs (verbs that show a mental/abstract action). -The use of past and present tenses. -The excessive use of nouns and adjectives. - The use of adjectives (manner and place).	- Biographies. - Landscapes.
Expository	It is a text type that informs, explains and gives details about a specific phenomenon. It can be historic, economic or scientific.	-The sequence of events. -The use of present/past tenses. -The appearance of definitions and explanations. -The use of state verbs. -The use of technical terms. -The insertion of tables, figures and graphs.	-Text books. -Lectures.
Argumentative	It is a text type that seeks to convince the reader with a different point of view or an idea.	-The indication of the point of view to be defended. -The use of arguments. -The use of illustrations, data, facts and examples.	-Debate papers.

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		-The use of present tenses. -The use of transition markers.	
Directive	It is a text type that gives instructions on how to do something.	-The sequence of instructions. -The use of present or imperative tenses. -The indication of materials to be used.	-Recipes. -Manuals.

Activity: Choose the correct answer to complete the following:

1.   A historical profile is categorized as a .... text.

   a- Narrative   **b-** Expository   **c-** Descriptive

2.   Scientific reports are .... texts.

   a- Expository   **b-** Argumentative   **c-** Directive

3.   Plays are .... texts.

   a- Directive   **b-**Narrative   **c-**Descriptive

4.   Digital tutorials are considered as.....................texts.

   a- Directive   **b-** Descriptive   **c-**Argumentative

5.   Debates are .... texts.

   a- Argumentative   **b-** Expository   **c-**Narrative

References:

- Thallis. A Guide to Text Types. National Literacy Trust, 2013.

- Gorlach. Text Types and the History of English. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin, 2004.

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