

explanation

examples

explain what causes tides
(geography)
explain how electricity is created
(science)

purpose

to explain the processes involved in
natural and social phenomena or to
explain how something works

structure

a general statement to introduce the
topic
a series of logical steps explaining
how or why something occurs
steps are continued until the final
state is produced or the explanation
is complete

language

simple present tense
temporal (then, next, after) and / or
casual connectives (because /
therefore)
mainly action clauses
often third person impersonal

non-fiction text