

Informational Text Structure — Completed Example

Original paragraph · Identify the relationship among ideas, not just a single signal word.

PRACTICE TEXT / CONTEXT

During a heat wave, dark pavement absorbs solar energy and becomes much warmer than nearby shaded surfaces. As pavement heats the air directly above it, blocks with little shade can remain uncomfortable into the evening. Adding tree canopy or other shade can reduce direct solar exposure on some surfaces, which may lower local heat stress.

STRUCTURE

Cause and effect.

SIGNAL WORDS / FEATURES

The paragraph repeatedly links conditions and results: “as,” “can remain,” “reduce,” and “which may lower.”

IDEA RELATIONSHIP

Solar exposure warms dark pavement → warm pavement contributes to hotter nearby air → shade reduces exposure → reduced exposure may lower heat stress.

TEXT EVIDENCE

“As pavement heats the air directly above it...” explicitly connects one condition to a result.

WHY IT HELPS

Recognizing the cause/effect structure helps the reader track why heat builds and why shade is presented as a response rather than as an unrelated detail.