

Reading Centre

making a difference

Write like an expert
in Years 5 and 6



Writing like an expert

Often school-based tests and assignments require you to write like an expert for other experts.

Have you ever found it difficult to change your writing from sounding like how you speak at home to sounding like you are an expert?

This slideshow demonstrates how you can transform everyday writing into expert writing in years five to six.



Four important ingredients in expert writing

When writing like an expert for other experts, it is important to:



1. use technical words
2. add detail to show how much you know
3. connect your ideas so that they flow and make sense
4. choose words carefully to be precise.

We will explore each of these aspects separately using an example written task in Science.

The written task

The written task from Science:

Analyse how the form of a Great White shark enables it to function in its environment.



The key thinking word is 'analyse'.

When answering the task, a writer will need to:

- explain how features of a Great White shark's body help it to survive in the ocean.

Getting started

To begin, start by writing a couple of sentences to show what you know.

For example:

Level 1



Three sentences that use *everyday language*.

The Great White shark has tough skin. It is covered in scales. These scales help it to swim quietly.

Moving from everyday words to technical words

Level 1

The Great White shark has rough skin. It is covered in scales. These scales help it to swim quietly.

Level 2

By changing the everyday words into more **technical words**, the writing sounds more expert.

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has rough skin. It is covered in **dermal denticles**. These **denticles** help it to swim quietly.

Moving from basic ideas to more detailed ideas

Level 2

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has rough skin. It is covered in **dermal denticles**. These **denticles** help it to swim quietly.

Level 3

A writer can add in **detail to nouns** to sound like an expert.

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has **roughly textured** skin. It is covered in **tiny, tooth-like dermal denticles with raised ridges**. These **denticles** help it to swim quietly.

Moving from informal to formal

Level 3

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has roughly textured skin. It is covered in tiny, tooth-like dermal denticles with raised ridges. These denticles help it to swim quietly.

Level 4

A writer can add in detail to verbs to sound like an expert.

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has roughly textured skin. It is covered in tiny, tooth-like dermal denticles with raised ridges. These denticles help it to manoeuvre easily and quietly through the water.



Moving from too many words to just enough

Level 4



The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has roughly textured skin. It is covered in tiny, tooth-like dermal denticles with raised ridges. These denticles help it to manoeuvre easily and quietly through the water.

Level 5

A writer can join sentences to be brief.

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has roughly textured skin, covered in tiny, tooth-like dermal denticles with raised ridges. These denticles help it to manoeuvre easily and quietly through the water.

Moving from small ideas to expanded ideas

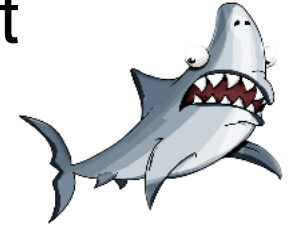
Level 5

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has roughly textured skin, covered in tiny, tooth-like dermal denticles with raised ridges. These denticles help it to manoeuvre easily and quietly through the water.

Level 6 A writer expand ideas to show expert knowledge.

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has roughly textured skin, covered in tiny, tooth-like dermal denticles with raised ridges. These denticles break the flow of water over the shark's body helping it to manoeuvre easily and quietly through the water.

The transformation from everyday to expert



Level 1 Everyday writing

The Great White shark has rough skin. It is covered in scales. These scales help it to swim quietly.

Level 6 Expert writing

The Great White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, has roughly textured skin, covered in tiny, tooth-like dermal denticles with raised ridges. These denticles break the flow of water over the shark's body helping it to manoeuvre easily and quietly through the water.