


The main explanatory devices

An explanatory device is a means of clarifying or illustrating an explanation. This table summarizes the five main explanatory devices. A handy way to remember them is by using the acronym **CIDER**:

Comparison, **I**llustration, **D**efinition, **E**xample, and **R**ephrasing.

Explanatory device	Definition	Example
<u>C</u> omparison or analogy	Putting two ideas or situations side by side and highlighting their similarities or differences.	Horror movies provoke similar emotions to those experienced on a roller coaster.
<u>I</u> llustration	Summarizing or enhancing explanations through visuals such as pictures, tables, maps, or graphs.	
<u>D</u> efinition	Describing the meaning of a technical or scientific term that may not be familiar to the reader.	Dopamine is a neurotransmitter, a molecule that transmits information between neurons.
<u>E</u> xample	Illustrating an idea by citing concrete examples.	There are also submarine volcanoes, such as Kolumbo in the Aegean Sea.
<u>R</u> ephrasing	Restating an idea in a simpler way.	Part of the reason why honey does not expire is that it has an average pH of around 4. In other words, its acidity helps prevent it from spoiling.



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