

Understanding command words in Science

what, when, where,
which or who

Write a short answer to a direct question.

give, state or name

Write a short answer.

describe

Recall facts, events or a process. This is stating what happens.

explain

State the reason why or how something happens. Using “because” can help you write an explanation.

calculate

Use information in the question to work out the answer. Remember to include units!

compare

Identify similarities and differences between things. Describe both of the things you’re comparing, not just one.

evaluate

Look at information in the question and make a judgement, decision or conclusion about it.

suggest

Apply your knowledge and understanding to the new situation in the question.