

Time and Sequence Words

Keep your story organized and flowing smoothly by writing about events in order. Most stories should have at least three events. Use time and sequence words and phrases to help order the events in your story.



Time and Sequence Words and Phrases:
first, second, next, last, after, before,
finally, today, yesterday, meanwhile, later, then,
next week, last night, this afternoon,
by the time, in the meantime

Number the sentences in each group to put the events in order.

____ Then, we searched Tom's room.
____ We finally found our ball in the backyard.
____ First, we looked in my room.

____ The sky filled with storm clouds while he was watering.
____ Dad watered the garden this morning.
____ By this afternoon, it was raining hard.

____ Now I can play the guitar pretty well.
____ I started taking guitar lessons last year.
____ After just a few days, I could play some chords.
____ Then, I learned to play some simple songs.

Add a time and sequence word or phrase to the beginning of each sentence to order the events.

____, I went on a camping trip with my family.

____, we went for a long hike in the woods.

____, I found a raccoon eating the
candy bar my little sister left in our tent.

Summarizing with Sequence Words

A **summary** is a short retelling of the main events in a story.

Sequence words help us understand the order of events.

Sequence words are useful in writing summaries for fictional texts.

Common Sequence Words		
Beginning →	Middle →	End
First In the beginning At first	So Then After that Next	Finally In the end Last

Part 1. Directions: Identify and circle the sequence words in the summary about the fairy tale, *Little Red Riding Hood*.

- In the beginning, Little Red Riding Hood's mother asked her to take food to her sick grandmother.
- So, Little Red Riding Hood headed out through the woods with a basket of food.
- Then, she came across a wolf who asked her where she was going.
- After that, the wolf ran ahead to the grandmother's house and tricked Little Red Riding Hood into thinking that he was her grandmother. He ate up Little Red Riding Hood.
- Finally, a huntsman who heard all the noise coming from the house, ran there and saved Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother.

Part 2. Directions: Fill in the summary sentences with sequence words from the word bank above.

Story	Summary
<p>Santiago had always wanted to join the school soccer team. This year, he was old enough to join. The tryouts were on Friday. For a month before the tryouts, he practiced soccer in all the spare time he had. He ran a mile every day and practiced drills with his dad, sister, and friends. There wasn't a day he didn't think about soccer.</p> <p>When the day of the tryouts arrived, Santiago felt nervous and excited at the same time. He had eaten a few bites of his breakfast when his stomach started to hurt. He continued to have an upset stomach for the whole school day. After school, he rushed to the soccer tryouts with his stomach still in pain. To support him, his parents came to the tryouts too. They cheered him on and watched their son show the coach all the hard work he had put into practicing soccer. Even with his stomach ache, Santiago did a great job.</p> <p>On Monday, the new members of the soccer team were posted on the bulletin board. No one was surprised when they saw Santiago's name on the list. He had made the team. When the coach called his name, Santiago jumped with joy! He was thrilled.</p>	<p>Beginning</p> <p>_____ Santiago practiced really hard everyday to train for the soccer tryouts.</p>
	<p>Middle</p> <p>_____ on the day of the tryouts, Santiago had an upset stomach, but he still did his best with his parents watching and cheering him on. He did a fantastic job.</p>
	<p>End</p> <p>_____ he made the soccer team and was very happy.</p>

Crazy Monday!

Number the sentences below to put them in order and form a story.



- English was the next class of the day for Jamie. He was relieved to find his textbook in his backpack, until he realized it was the English textbook he had used the year before. How could that have gotten into his backpack?
- On his way to the cafeteria at lunch time, Jamie stopped into the restroom to comb his hair. When he reached into his backpack to find his comb, he found Jessi's hairbrush instead! Could Jessi be playing a trick on him?
- On Monday morning, Jamie picked up his backpack from its spot beside the front door and headed out to catch the school bus. His sister Jessi, who was in the grade below his, picked up her backpack from the same spot and followed Jamie to the bus stop.
- Frustrated, Jamie went to the cafeteria and sat down to eat his lunch. When he unwrapped his sandwich, instead of the peanut butter he expected, he found Jessi's favorite, tomatoes and cheese. Jamie's parents knew he didn't like tomatoes. Why would they have given him this sandwich?
- The first lesson of the morning was in Social Studies. When Jamie looked into his backpack for his Social Studies textbook, he couldn't find it anywhere. Luckily Jake, who sat at the desk beside him, let Jamie share his book.
- "While we're at it," said Jamie, "let me give you back your hairbrush. I don't know how it ended up in my backpack, but you may as well have it back." Jamie knew from Jessi's genuine look of surprise that Jessi was not responsible for her hairbrush having ended up in his backpack.
- As he was about to take a bite of the disappointing sandwich, Jamie saw Jessi marching toward him, looking as irritated as he felt. "Can we trade sandwiches?" she asked. "Whatever you have has got to be better than the peanut butter and jelly Mom and Dad gave me."
- As Jessi opened her backpack to put her brush away, Jamie began to notice how similar their backpacks looked. They were the same shade of blue and were the exact same size. Jessi must've noticed too, because they both exclaimed, "I've got your backpack!"