

Lesson 5 Time Order

In a personal narrative, readers need to know when things happen and in what order. Understanding the order of events helps readers put other ideas together, such as why something happened or what meaning an event had. That is what **time words** are for. Think of all the time words or phrases you can, and list them. Here are some ideas to help you get started.



after lunch
yesterday

Monday
last week

at dawn
October

Now, use some of the time words you listed. Write a sentence that could be from a personal narrative. Use a time word or phrase at the beginning of your sentence.

Write a sentence about something you did recently. Use a time word or phrase in the middle or at the end of your sentence.

Write a sentence about something funny or odd that happened to you. Use a time word or phrase at the end of your sentence.

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In addition to time words, transition words help readers know when things happen and in what order. Here are some common transition words.

after
later

as soon as
meanwhile

before
next

during
soon

finally
then

first
when

Here is a paragraph that uses some transition words. Circle the transition words when you find them.

During homeroom, my name was called over the loudspeaker. I was supposed to go to the office. As soon as they heard it, my classmates gave me a hard time about being in trouble. My face was about as red as my sweater. When I got to the office, the principal had a really funny look on her face. She went to the window and pointed. Then, I knew what it was all about. My dog had followed me to school. He was sitting right beside the sign that read, "No pets, skateboards, or motorized vehicles on school grounds."

Use some transition words in sentences. Combine them with time words from the list on page 30 if you like.

Write about something that happens in the evening.

Write about two things that happen at the same time.

Write about three things that happen, each one after the other.
