

What Is Sequence?

Sequence means time order, or 1-2-3 order. If several things happen in a story, they happen in a sequence. One event happens first, and it is followed by another event.

How to Read for Sequence

You can find the sequence of events in a story by looking for *time words*, such as *first*, *next*, and *last*. Here is a list of time words:

later	during	days of the week
today	while	months of the year

Try It!

Here is a paragraph that tells a story. See if you can follow the sequence. Circle all the time words.

John Muir

Many people try to protect nature now. But one hundred years ago, few people thought about it. John Muir helped change that. Muir was born in Scotland. Later he moved with his family to a farm in Wisconsin. He loved nature. He also loved to invent things. But in 1867 an accident almost cost him an eye. Muir gave up inventing. That same year he began a thousand-mile walk to the Gulf of Mexico. Later he wrote a book about the plants and animals he saw. In 1868 he went to the Yosemite Valley in California. He spent six years exploring this part of the West. Muir became convinced that the government needed to save areas of great beauty. In 1890 Muir persuaded Congress to set up Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. In 1892 he founded the Sierra Club.

Try putting these events in the order that they happened. What happened first? Write the number **1** on the line by that sentence. Write the number **2** by the sentence that tells what happened next. Write the number **3** by the sentence that tells what happened last.

_____ Muir explored the Yosemite Valley.

_____ Muir moved to Wisconsin.

_____ Congress set up two national parks.

Practice with Sequence

This book asks questions about sequence in stories. Here are some practice questions. The first two are already answered. You can do the third one on your own.

B 1. When was the Sierra Club founded?

- A. before Muir went on the thousand-mile walk
- B. after Yosemite became a national park
- C. while Muir was an inventor

Look at the question. It has the words *Sierra Club* and *founded*. Find those words in the story. You will find the sentence, "In 1892 he founded the Sierra Club." The sentence before this one says that Muir persuaded Congress to set up Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks in 1890. So B is the correct answer. Muir founded the Sierra Club two years after Yosemite became a national park.

C 2. What happened just before Muir walked to the Gulf of Mexico?

- A. he wrote a book about what he saw
- B. he grew up on a farm
- C. he almost lost an eye

Look at the question carefully. Notice the time word *before*. But notice also that the word *just* is there. So the question is asking what happened *just before* Muir walked to the Gulf of Mexico. In the story you will find these sentences: "But in 1867 an accident almost cost him an eye. Muir gave up inventing. That same year he began a thousand-mile walk to the Gulf of Mexico." So the correct answer is C.

_____ 3. When did Muir persuade Congress to set up Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks?

- A. when he was exploring Yosemite
- B. before he walked to the Gulf of Mexico
- C. in 1890

Can you find the answer?

To check your answers, turn to page 62.

Using What You Know

Here are some time words and some examples that show how to use them. Read the examples. Then fill in the blanks with words that show the sequence of events in your life.

First

First add butter to the mashed potatoes.

The first thing a jeweler does is cut the gems.

◆ The first song I remember hearing was _____

Then

Then in 1492 Columbus left Spain and sailed for America.

The water rises to a certain temperature, and then it boils.

◆ Tomorrow I'll go for a walk and then _____

After

After you come to the stop sign, turn right and go four blocks.

The coldest time came after midnight.

◆ Right after I ate lunch, I _____

Final

Our final stop was at the post office to pick up some letters.

Finally Hillary stopped practicing her trumpet.

◆ The final thing I did yesterday was _____