

SEQUENCE

When reading a story or an essay, it's important to understand when an event happened in relation to other events. Writers will often use **sequence words** to show the order of events taking place.

It's easiest to split sequence words into three groups: beginning words, middle words, and end words.

BEGINNING WORDS

Beginning sequence words and phrases are used to signal the first item or event that is being listed. Here are some common beginning words:

- First
- In the beginning
- To begin
- Starting off
- At the onset
- Originally

To begin, let's open our books to page 9.
The **first** thing on our list is a gallon of milk.

MIDDLE WORDS

Middle sequence words and phrases are used to introduce an item or event that is listed next. Here are some common middle words:

- Then
- In turn
- Next
- Consequently
- After that
- Second

Then, begin reading the first paragraph.
The **next** item we need to get is a loaf of bread.

END WORDS

End sequence words and phrases are used to designate the last item or event of a series. Here are some common end words:

- Last
- At the end
- Finally
- Ultimately
- In conclusion
- To finish

Finally, answer all of the review questions.
A box of cereal is the **last** thing on our list.

