

Time Order Signals

Words	Phrases
Finally,	At last,
First (second, third, etc.),	At 12:00,
Later,	After a while,
Meanwhile,	After that,
Next,	Before beginning the lesson,
Now	In the morning,
Soon	The next day,
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Put a comma after a time order signal that comes before the subject at the beginning of a sentence. (Exception: *Then*, *soon*, and *now* are usually not followed by a comma.)

At first, none of us realized what was happening.

For a minute or two, we were too scared to move.

Then we tried to call our parents at work.

PRACTICE 1

Time Order

- A. Look again at the model on page 24. Add any time order signal words or phrases that you circled to the Time Order Signals chart above.
- B. Complete the paragraphs with time order signals from the lists provided, and capitalize and punctuate them correctly. Use each word or phrase once. There is more than one possible word or phrase to fill in some of the blanks.

1. Use these words and phrases:

first

on the night before Thanksgiving

about 3:00 in the afternoon

then

after that

after dinner

in the morning

soon

before taking the first bite

finally

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving in the United States is a day for families to be together and enjoy a traditional meal. (a) On the night before Thanksgiving, _____ our mother bakes a pumpkin pie, the traditional Thanksgiving dessert. (b) In the morning, _____ she gets up early to prepare the other traditional dishes.

(continued on next page)

(c) First, _____ she makes dressing.¹ (d) After that, _____ she stuffs² the turkey with the dressing and puts the turkey into the oven to roast. (e) Finally, _____ she prepares the rest of the meal. She cooks all day long. (f) About 3:00 in the afternoon, the family sits down at the table. (g) Before taking the first bite, everyone around the table says one thing that they are thankful for. (h) Then _____ we can begin to eat. We stuff ourselves just as full as Mother stuffed the turkey earlier in the day! (i) Soon _____ we are all groaning³ because we have eaten too much. (j) After dinner, _____ we collapse on the living room sofa and watch football games on TV. No one moves for at least two hours.

2. Use these words and phrases:

on the day of the party
 during the party
 before the party
 at the beginning of the party

first
 after that
 then (use twice)
 next
 finally
 later

Fifteen Years



A girl's fifteenth birthday is a very special occasion in many Latin American countries and requires a lot of planning. (a) Before the party, _____

the parents make many preparations. (b) _____

First, _____ they buy a special dress and order a bouquet of flowers for their daughter.

They also plan a large meal for the guests and hire an orchestra. (c) Then _____

they decorate a big room where the party will be held.

(d) On the day of the party, there are many special traditions. (e) First At the beginning

of the party, the father and daughter enter the big salon accompanied by special music. (f) Then _____ the father makes

¹**dressing:** mixture of bread cubes, onion, celery, butter, chicken broth, and herbs that is cooked inside a turkey. After it is cooked, it is removed from the turkey and eaten as a side dish. It is also called *stuffing*.

²**stuff:** put inside; fill until completely full

³**groaning:** making a long deep sound because you are in pain

