

SEQUENCING

Explanation

“Writing is easy,” a professional writer once said. “All you have to do is put one word after another.” Although he was joking when he said this, as in many jokes, there is a bit of truth.

Putting one word after another, one sentence after another, one paragraph after another is really what writing entails, but the critical catch is to write the sentences in a “correct,” logical, and pleasant sequence. A sentence in a paragraph that does not follow another sentence logically, results in a disjointed thought that may jar and confuse the reader’s ability to think along with the writer.

There are a number of ways to arrange sentences in a paragraph: cause and effect, classification, comparison-contrast. But two of the primary arrangements of sentences are: chronological, where a series of dates or events are arranged in time order; and procedural, where an explanation is given of how something is done or made.

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCING

Chronological sequencing places information in order by dates or by events. Paragraphs which provide chronological information would be confusing without some order. Therefore, sequencing provides order and promotes understanding. With dates or events one can move from the oldest to the newest or from newest to oldest, but can not jump around.

Using year dates is not the only way to indicate chronological time. We often use adverbs to show when something happened. We say yesterday or before or first to mean earlier. We say now or next to mean current time. We say after or later or finally to mean the newest events that have happened.

Chronological Sequencing Exercises:

Directions:

1. Each of the following practice exercises is a set of sentences that can be put into a chronological sequence which will make the paragraph clear. Number the sentences to show the correct order they should have in a paragraph.

Note: While sequencing the exercises, remember that the paragraph to be sequenced is part of an essay, and so should be thought of as being in an essay context.

Exercise 1

- _____ A. Jefferson became president in 1801.
- _____ B. Thomas Jefferson was born in 1743.
- _____ C. During the Revolutionary War, he served as governor of Virginia.
- _____ D. From 1797 to 1801 he served as vice-president of the United States.
- _____ E. He graduated from William and Mary College in 1762.

Exercise 2

- _____ A. But the city has been rebuilt.
- _____ B. However, during World War II large parts of Munich were destroyed.
- _____ C. Today, Munich is again a center for German art, Architecture, and education.
- _____ D. For many years before World War II the city of Munich was one of Germany's great cultural centers.

Exercise 3

- _____ A. After he arrived, he had a try-out with the New York Giant's minor league baseball team.
- _____ B. Orlando was hired by this minor league team.
- _____ C. Orlando Cepeda left Puerto Rico and came to the United States in 1955.
- _____ D. Two years later he was moved up from the minor leagues to the Giants' Major league team.

Exercise 4

- _____ A. Drake fought his way to safety, but many of his crew were killed.
- _____ B. In the middle of the night, while Drake's small ships were anchored, They were attacked by a large Spanish fleet.
- _____ C. After reaching safety, he swore he would get revenge or die trying.
- _____ D. In 1567 an English trader named Francis Drake sailed to the West Indies with a cargo of woolen goods and slaves from Africa.

Exercise 5

- _____ A. Therefore, only monks and a few scholars learned to read and write.
- _____ B. Soon many people learned to read, and it became easier for new ideas to Spread and gain support.
- _____ C. However, around 1470 John Gutenberg invented a printing press with moveable type.
- _____ D. In the Middle Ages (500-1450) every book had to be printed by hand.
- _____ E. This made books cheaper and more common.
- _____ F. This method of printing meant it took months or even years to make a books were rare and expensive.

PROCEDURAL SEQUENCING

Directions:

Procedural sequencing involves arranging information in a series of instructions or steps. Paragraphs of this type explain how to do something, how something functions or how something develops. In the following exercises the sentences are not in the correct procedural sequence. Read the sentences and number them correctly.

Exercise 1

- _____ A. Next put enough water over the beans to wet them thoroughly.
- _____ B. The first step in growing bean sprouts is to purchase some tiny green mung beans.
- _____ C. In eight days, they should have sprouted.
- _____ D. Cover with a damp black cloth and place in a warm spot.

Exercise 2

- _____ A. Three to five days after hatching, she will attempt her first flight.
- _____ B. Once a drone arrives, mating takes place at an altitude of about fifty feet.
- _____ C. The first act of a newly hatched queen bee is to seek a mate.
- _____ D. Following the mating the queen flies home to lay her eggs.

Exercise 3

- _____ A. After the food reaches the stomach, muscles in the stomach wall mix it together and combine it with gastric juice.
- _____ B. The passage takes about eight hours.
- _____ C. After being swallowed, the food passes into a tube that connects the mouth and the stomach.
- _____ D. Human digestion begins when we use our teeth to cut and grind food.

Exercise 4

- _____ A. The making of chocolate is a lengthy and somewhat complicated process
- _____ B. On arrival the beans are cleaned, roasted, and chopped into bits.
- _____ C. The chocolate bar begins with a tropical tree call theobrama cacao.
- _____ D. One the beans are collected, they are dried and shipped to chocolate factories.
- _____ E. Harvested twice a year, the seedpods contain the cacao beans used to produce chocolate.

Answer Key

Chronological Sequencing

Procedural Sequencing

Exercise 1:	Exercise 1:
A. 5 B. 1 C. 3 D. 4 E. 2	A. 2 B. 1 C. 4 D. 3
Exercise 2:	Exercise 2:
A. 3 B. 2 C. 4 D. 1	A. 2 B. 3 C. 1 D. 4
Exercise 3	Exercise 3:
A. 2 B. 3 C. 1 D. 4	A. 3 B. 4 C. 2 D. 1
Exercise 4	Exercise 4:
A. 3 B. 2 C. 4 D. 1	Or
	A. 1 5 B. 5 4 C. 2 1 D. 4 3 E. 3 2
Exercise 5:	
A. 3 B. 6 C. 4 D. 1 E. 5 F. 2	

