



## Reading On The Move

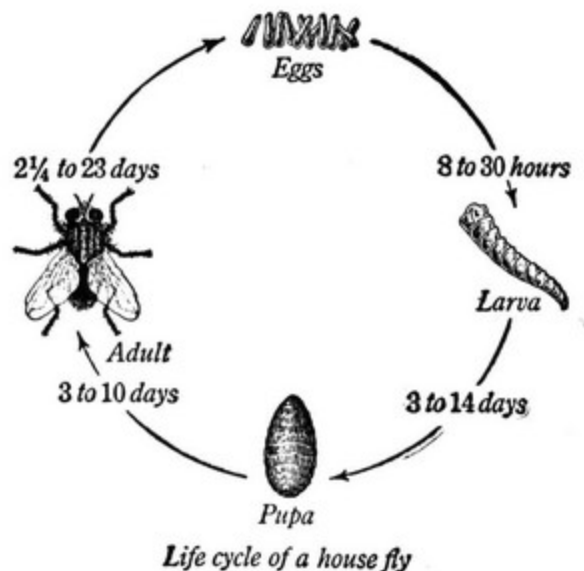
### When Did That Happen?

#### Sequence of Events and Summarizing

**Sequence of events** is the order in which events take place.

Understanding the order in which events happen will help you to better understand what you are reading. Pieces of literature may be organized in different ways. Many pieces of non-fiction, such as recipes and instructions, are written in **chronological order**. Chronological order is the time order in which events take place. Many fictional stories are written in chronological order as well.

Example:



The sequence of events for the life cycle of a house fly is: the **eggs** grow into a **larva**, the larva becomes a **pupa**, and it emerges as a **house fly**. All of these steps are necessary for a eggs to become a house fly.

Try putting these events in the order they happen. Number them 1 through 8, with 1 being the first event that happened, and 8 being the last. The first one is done for you.

- \_\_\_ 1. Frank came to pick up Aunt Lily on his motorcycle.
- \_\_\_ 2. Wanda asked Aunt Lily if Frank could pick her up on his motorcycle.
- \_\_\_ 3. Frank called to tell Wanda that he got a new motorcycle.
- 1 4. Frank asked Wanda if she wanted a ride on his new motorcycle.
- \_\_\_ 5. Wanda told Frank that Aunt Lily didn't want her to ride on his motorcycle because motorcycles are dangerous.
- \_\_\_ 6. Frank asked Aunt Lily to go for a ride with him on his motorcycle so she could see that motorcycles can be safe.
- \_\_\_ 7. Aunt Lily had fun riding on Frank's motorcycle.
- \_\_\_ 8. Aunt Lily let Frank take Wanda for a ride on his motorcycle.



Another example is the sequence of events for a work day. The day might go like this:

1. *Wake up*
2. *Get washed and dressed*
3. *Eat breakfast*
4. *Go to work*
5. *Come home from work*
6. *Do house and yard work*
7. *Eat dinner*
8. *Watch some TV*
9. *Go to bed*
10. *Sleep*

Some key words that will help you to understand the order in which events take place are: *first, next, before, after, then, finally, last*. Let's put the example above into sentences using some key words.

*The **first** thing I do in my day is wake up. **Next**, I get washed up and dressed. **Then** I eat breakfast and head to work. **After** my work day is over, I head home where I do house and yard work. When those chores are done I eat dinner and relax in front of the television. **Finally**, I head to bed and fall asleep.*

Write the sequence of events for your typical day.

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➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

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➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

Now, write your sequence of events using complete sentences.

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When stories are written so that events happen in the order in which they take place, this gives the reader an idea of the time sequence. A perfect example of a written sequence is a list of instructions, such as a recipe. There are certain things that must be done in the right order so the outcome is correct. Some examples of where sequence is used are when writing about history (dates), science (steps in experiments), or even in stories that involve a plot.

Do not confuse the sentence order of a passage with the sequence order. Often times, the order of the events is not written chronologically, or in the time order they happened.

**Example:**

*Her father tried to get in touch with her for hours. **First** he tried her cell phone; there was no answer. He called her three more times **after** waiting a half hour. There was still no answer. **Then**, he started to get angry. He wondered why she was being so irresponsible. She was late for her appointment; he remembered reminding her about it **earlier** in the morning. He called Maria, her best friend, to see if she knew where his daughter was. There was no answer at Maria's house. His anger turned to panic. He **began** to pace around his kitchen. He tried calling her cell phone one **last** time. She **finally** answered. "Hi, Dad!" she said cheerfully. "Where have you been?!" he barked angrily, "You missed your appointment!" "Dad, don't you remember? My appointment was changed to tomorrow. I went to the movies with Maria," she said.*

As you can see, the events in this story are not all written in the order in which they took place. For example the first line of the story says that the girl's father had tried for hours to get in touch with her. It then goes back in time to describe how he tried to get in touch with her.

Now, you try! Read the story below and see if you can put the events of this story in order. Underline word clues that help you decide the order.

*Laurel was training for the soccer team for her high school. She knew she needed to be in really good shape. She practiced every day. Before she ran five laps around the soccer field, she stretched her muscles to make sure she didn't get hurt while practicing. She stretched for fifteen minutes. After her warm up, Laurel would do fifty sit-ups and three different exercises with the soccer ball. Finally, she would run two more laps around the soccer field, walk home, shower, and eat a large dinner.*

Place the events in the correct sequence by numbering them 1 through 8, with 1 being the first event and 8 being the last event.

- \_\_\_ 9. She ran around the soccer field five times.
  - \_\_\_ 10. She walked home.
  - \_\_\_ 11. She walked to the soccer field.
  - \_\_\_ 12. She stretched for fifteen minutes.
  - \_\_\_ 13. She showered.
  - \_\_\_ 14. She ate dinner.
  - \_\_\_ 15. She did fifty sit-ups and three different ball exercises.
  - \_\_\_ 16. She ran two laps around the soccer field.
17. What words that you underlined in the passage gave you clues about the sequence of events in this story?
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As you have just learned, understanding sequence of events of a piece of writing helps you to better understand what you have read. Another way to remember what you have read is to put it in your own words. Two ways to retell what you have read are *summarizing* and *paraphrasing*. Let's explore these skills.

**Summarizing** is telling the main idea of a passage without many supporting details. A summary is much shorter than the original passage. When summarizing, ask yourself questions such as *who, what, when, where, and why*.

**Paraphrasing** is telling the main idea with most of the supporting details put in simpler language. Paraphrasing is usually longer than summarizing but not quite as long as the original passage.

Let's look at a sample paragraph:

*For hundreds of years, Americans have fought for their freedom as citizens of the United States. Many people have bravely led the struggle, and many others continue to lead today. One such person was a man who fought for everyone to have equal chances at jobs, housing, voting, and more. His name was Martin Luther King, Jr., and he was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement.*

**Summary:**

*Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement where he fought for the freedom of the American citizens.*

**Paraphrase:**

*Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement. He fought for equal rights for the American people in areas such as jobs, housing, voting and more.*

Now you try! Read the passage below and summarize and paraphrase what you have read in the space provided.

*Segregating something is to keep it apart from something else. Segregation kept blacks and whites apart. It kept whites above blacks in the social system.*

*Under segregation, black students could not go to white schools. They had to go to separate schools for blacks. Blacks had to move to the back of a public bus if a white person wanted to sit in the front. They had to use separate bathrooms in public places. They had to drink from separate water fountains. They could not eat with whites at the same lunch counter. Special laws kept them from voting. Almost everywhere in the South, blacks were kept segregated from whites.*

**18. Summary:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**19. Paraphrase:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Now read the newspaper article on the next page and answer the questions.  
Use the vocabulary box to help with any unknown words.

<b>Vocabulary word</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>permit</b>	official certificate of permission
<b>construction</b>	the act of building something
<b>memorial</b>	a monument built to remember someone
<b>creed</b>	belief
<b>justice</b>	being morally right
<b>democracy</b>	form of government where the power lies with the people

## Dr. King to be Honored with Memorial

### Completion of memorial of civil rights leader expected in 2011

A **permit** has been signed by US Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar allowing **construction** to begin on a **memorial** honoring civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Expected to be completed in 2011, the new memorial will sit between the Jefferson and Lincoln memorials on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The location is befitting as the Lincoln memorial is where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous and inspiring “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963. Salazar thinks that Dr. King was, “one of America’s greatest heroes.” He highlighted that Dr. King, “inspired America to live up to the meaning of its **creed** of freedom, **justice**, and opportunity for all people,” and that the National Mall is a place “fitting

and appropriate to honor Dr. King’s extraordinary life and legacy.” The memorial to Dr. King will serve as a reminder of his dedication to the idea of equality and the responsibility of the people of the world to practice this idea.

### The Stone of Hope

The memorial will be entitled, *The Stone of Hope*. In the center of the memorial will sit the *Stone of Hope*. Within the stone will be four carvings. One side will have a carving of Dr. King, which will stand 30 feet tall. The other three sides will depict **democracy**, justice, and hope—the themes to which Dr. King dedicated his life. The memorial will sit on 4 acres of land and will include elements of water, stone, and trees.

It is estimated that the memorial will cost about \$114 million to complete. Organizers have raised \$100 million so far and are continuing to raise funds.

**20.** Write a brief summary of the main idea of the article.

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**21.** Paraphrase the section of the article entitled “The Stone of Hope.”

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**← Answer Key**

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2. 3
3. 1
4. 2
5. 4
6. 5
7. 7
8. 8
9. 3
10. 6
11. 1
12. 2
13. 7
14. 8
15. 4
16. 5
17. Before, After, Finally
18. Summary: Blacks and Whites were segregated, or kept apart, in a social system that held Whites at a higher standing.
19. Paraphrase: Segregation kept Blacks and Whites apart. Whites did not allow Blacks to attend their schools, ride in the front of busses, or even drink from the same water fountains. Blacks were not allowed to vote.
20. The article is about a memorial dedicated to Civil Rights Leader, Martin Luther King, Jr.
21. The Stone of Hope will sit in the middle of the memorial surrounded by elements of water, trees, and stone. The stone will have carvings of democracy, justice, hope, and Dr. King. The memorial will cost \$114 million of which \$100 million has been raised. Fundraising continues.