

Paragraph Unit

Lesson 6 Sentence Order in Paragraphs

Tennessee Standard - 6th Grade

Assessed - Select appropriate transitional devices and time-order words.

Sentence Order in Paragraphs

Sentences in a paragraph should be sequenced in a specific order. There are three basic ways to organize details in paragraphs: by chronological order, by locations, and by order of importance. If there is not an arrangement to the sentences, the paragraph will not make sense.

Chronological order is important when writing narratives or expository paragraphs. Narrative paragraphs tell a story. The writer would become confused if the story was told in a random sequence. Expository paragraphs gives steps, explain, or inform the reader. Imagine reading an expository paragraph which gave you directions in an haphazard arrangement. Here is a list of words you may use when writing a paragraph to show sequence:

after	before this	initially	next
after a few hours	currently	in the end	previously
afterwards	during	in the future	simultaneously
as soon as	eventually	in the meantime	then
at	first, second, third, etc.	in the meanwhile	until
at last	first of all	last	when
at the same time	finally	lastly	while
at the same time	immediately before	later	
before	immediately after	meanwhile	

Descriptive paragraphs are usually arranged by the order of location. Here is a list of words you may use when writing a paragraph to show location:

above	below	in front of	outside
across	beneath	inside	over
against	beside	into	past
along	between	near	throughout
among	beyond	next to	toward
apart from	by	off	to the right or left of
around	down	on	under
at	in	on top of	underneath
behind	in back of	out of	up

Persuasive paragraphs are usually arranged by the importance of the points being addressed. Some writers arrange from least important point to the most important point while others arrange points in the opposite. Words used in persuasive paragraphs might include:

TRANSITIONS FOR ADDING TO IDEAS ALREADY STATED

again	another example of	for instance	one example of__
also	as well as	furthermore	similarly
along with	at the same time	in addition	such
and	besides	likewise	
another	for example	moreover	

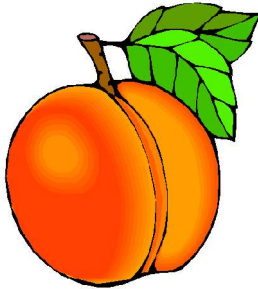
TRANSITIONS FOR SHOWING RESULT (CAUSE-EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS)

accordingly because therefore at this point
as a result consequently thus since _____
at last hence to sum up ...

TRANSITIONS FOR CONTRASTING IDEAS

although in the same way on the other hand nevertheless
even though likewise otherwise but
however on the one hand... yet still

Read the following paragraph.



Kate Barlow preserved peaches which lasted for years, and you can too if you follow these few simple steps. First check the jars for cracks or chips. Second place the lids in boiling water to sterilize. While the lids boil, wash the jars and rings in hot, soapy water. Next place the boiling hot peaches and syrup into the hot, sterilized jars. As soon as the jar is full within a half inch of headspace wipe the rim of the jar clean. Immediately cap the jar with the hot lid. Next place the jar in a steamer. After steaming for twenty minutes remove the jar from the steam bath. Once the jar has cooled you can store it until needed. The peaches will stay fresh for several years.

- . What is the topic sentence of this paragraph?
- . Which words in this paragraph show you order?
- . What would be wrong with putting the fourth sentence before the second sentence?

Practice 1

Below are the steps for making spiced peaches. Write a detail sentence for each picture below.



five cups
of brown sugar, two cups of
white vinegar



two tablespoons of whole
cloves, six inches of stick
cinnamon, and a pinch of
nutmeg



over low heat for twenty
minutes



four quarts of peeled whole
peaches
