PRE-INTERMEDIATE UNIT 5

using sequencers

speakout WRITING TIP

When we describe past events, we usually use the past simple. We also use sequencers, such as *first, then, after that/after a while* and *finally*, to order events.

We use *first* at the start of a description or story.
Last summer I went backpacking round Europe. ***First****, we took the train to Paris.*

We use *then, after that* and *after a while* to describe what happens next.
We spent a few days in Paris. ***Then*** *we took the bus to Strasbourg.*

We use *finally* at the end of the description.
Finally*, we spent a week at the beach in Sicily.*

1 **Read Sally's email about her trip to Austria and put the places in the correct order.**

a) Innsbruck ____
b) Salzburg ____
c) Munich ____
d) Vienna ____

Hi Liz,

I've just got back from my trip to Austria. I went with Tracy and Ella. First, we took the plane to Vienna. It wasn't a long flight – about two and a half hours. Then we spent four days there. We visited lots of museums and drank lots of delicious coffee in traditional Viennese cafés. After that, we went to Salzburg by train. It's a beautiful town; Mozart was born there! There were a lot of tourists because we were there during the Mozart music festival! Then we took the train to Innsbruck and we went skiing. After a while the weather got really bad, so we took another train (!) to Munich in the south of Germany. The beer was great but I didn't like the sausages! Finally, we caught the plane back home from Munich. It was a fantastic trip, but I spent too much!

Hope to see you soon!

Love,

Sally

2A **Match the places to the things.**

1 Salzburg	**a)** beer
2 Innsbruck	**b)** Mozart
3 Munich	**c)** museums
4 Vienna	**d)** skiing

B **Circle five irregular and one regular verb in the past simple.**

C **Underline five different words/phrases that help us to understand the order of events.**

3 **Complete the description with these words.**

Then	Finally	while	that	First

Last summer my husband and I went to Spain on holiday. [1]_____, we flew to Madrid. After [2]_____ we spent three or four days looking round the city. We visited lots of museums and ate delicious food. [3]_____ we took the fast train to Seville. After a [4]_____ the weather got very hot, so we went to the coast. We spent a few days relaxing at the beach and swimming in the sea. [5]_____, we flew back home from Malaga. It was a fantastic holiday!

4 **Write an email to a friend about a trip or a weekend away. Write 60–80 words.**

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Plan your writing

- Think about your trip. Where did you go? Who did you go with? What did you do? What was the weather like? Did you enjoy the trip? Why?/Why not?
- Remember to use informal language in your email.

Check your writing

- Have you used the past simple tense to describe what you did?
- Have you checked your grammar and spelling?
- Did you find any mistakes?

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