

Sequence: Order of Events

The events that happen in a story follow a **sequence**, or **order**. When you read, it is important to keep track of the sequence of events so that you can better understand the story. One way to follow the sequence of events in a story is to look for words such as *first*, *next*, *then*, and *finally*. Dates and times of day can also be clues to help you see the sequence, for example *in the morning* or *on Saturday*. When there are no clue words, you can picture the story events in your mind and ask yourself what happens *first*, *next*, and *last*.

Read the story. Think about the order in which things happen.

"I've got a serious problem," Jacob complained to his friend Pam one afternoon. "I'm excited about our talent show but can't think of anything to do."

Pam thought for a moment, "I wanted to be in the show, too. At first I didn't know what to do either. Then I remembered that I like to sing. Wouldn't it be fun to sing a song in the talent show? I selected my favorite song, and I practiced by singing it everyday."



Jacob quickly interrupted, "But, Pam, I can't sing!"

"Then what can you do? Think of something you enjoy."

"I've got an idea!" Jacob replied with a grin. "I'll tell jokes in the talent show. All our friends will enjoy a good laugh!"

Write a number from 1 to 5 to show the story events in order.

- Jacob came up with an idea.
- Pam told Jacob how she got ready for the show.
- Jacob told Pam he had a problem.
- Pam explained how she chose her talent.
- Pam told Jacob to think of something he enjoys.

Tip

When you read, ask yourself, *Would the story have ended differently if the events had happened in a different order?*

Read the story about Pat and her dog, Sparky. Look for clues that help you recognize the sequence.

Sparky

THE WONDER DOG

I was convinced that my dog Sparky would be good at performing tricks in the school talent show. I had one week to train him.

First I placed a single dog biscuit under a can and put out two other cans with no biscuits under them. Then I mixed up the cans, so Sparky wouldn't know which one had the biscuit under it. Curiously, he sniffed each can. Then he flipped over the middle can and found the biscuit! "Excellent job!" I praised.

Next I had to teach Sparky how to jump through a hoop. I held the hoop in front of him and commanded, "Jump, Sparky!" He just sat there. He had no idea what he was supposed to do. Then I remembered that Sparky knew how to fetch a ball. Tossing a ball through the hoop, I said, "Jump, Sparky!" Sparky followed the ball and jumped through the hoop. Quickly, I rewarded him with a dog biscuit.

We practiced this way all week. At the end of the week I hid the ball, held up the hoop, and said, "Jump, Sparky!" Believe it or not, Sparky jumped right through the hoop. I was so proud that I gave him two biscuits and a big hug. We had done it. I was confident Sparky the Wonder Dog was going to be a huge hit with the audience at the show!



Checking Comprehension

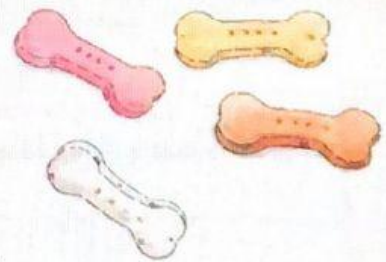
1. If you could ask Pat what she learned from training Sparky, what do you think she would tell you?

2. Will Sparky be a hit at the show? Explain your answer.

Practicing Comprehension Skills

Write a number from 1 to 8 to show the sequence of events in "Sparky the Wonder Dog."

3. ____ Sparky jumps through the hoop on his own.
4. ____ First Pat teaches Sparky a hide-the-biscuit trick.
5. ____ Pat decides to teach Sparky tricks for a show.
6. ____ On the day of the show, Pat and Sparky feel ready.
7. ____ Next Pat wants Sparky to jump through a hoop.
8. ____ Pat tosses a ball through the hoop for Sparky to follow.
9. ____ At the end of the week, Pat hides the ball.
10. ____ Pat and Sparky practice the hoop trick all week.
11. What word clues help you know the sequence?



12. What do you think might have happened if Pat had not thrown the ball through the hoop?

13. What might have been different if the show was a week earlier?

14. What might be different if Pat had not rewarded Sparky with biscuits?

Practicing Vocabulary

Choose the word from the box that best replaces the underlined word or words. Write the word on the line.

audience biscuit confident flipped followed tossing train

15. Pat was sure Sparky could get a ball.

16. Pat was throwing a ball through a hoop.

17. A smart dog is easy to teach.

18. Sparky chased the ball.

19. Sparky's reward was a treat.

20. Sparky turned over the can with the biscuit underneath.

21. The people watching loved Sparky's tricks.