Exercise 10

Read the information. Then choose the correct words or phrases to complete the text.

Using time markers

First, firstly, at first, etc.

- We use *firstly / secondly / thirdly / finally*, etc. to put a series of events in order: e.g. *There are three things you need to do.* ***Firstly****, you need to do X.* ***Secondly****, you need to do Y.* ***Finally****, you need to do Z.*
- We can use *first* (or *first of all)* instead of *firstly*: e.g. ***First*** (*of all*), *you need to do X.*
- We use *at first* to describe what was true at the beginning, before it changed later: e.g. ***At first****, there were only a few people. But more and more people arrived during the day.*
- We can use *first* between the subject and verb to describe the beginning of a process or the first time something happened: e.g. *I* ***first*** *met her when we were students, but we've met many times since then.*

At the end / in the end

- We use *at the end* to describe the last part of an event: e.g. ***At the end*** (*of the party*), *everyone went home.*
- We use *in the end* to describe the final (and perhaps unexpected) results: e.g. *We were really worried about his illness, but* ***in the end*** *he made a full recovery.*

While, during, meanwhile

- After *while*, we need a clause (subject + verb): e.g. ***While*** *we were at the meeting, I checked my emails.*
- It's also possible to have an *-ing* clause after *while*: e.g. ***While*** *waiting, I checked my emails* (= *While I was waiting …*).
- After *during*, we need a noun phrase: e.g. ***During*** *the meeting, I checked my emails.*
- We usually use *meanwhile* to connect two separate sentences: e.g. *He gave a really boring presentation at the meeting.* ***Meanwhile****, I checked my emails.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

When the robbery of a local museum was first/firstly/while reported, nobody paid it much attention. At first/First/Secondly , it was thought that nothing valuable was missing. However, it was later discovered that some valuable coins were missing.

During/ Meanwhile/While a recent press conference, an expert was asked what the thieves might do with the coins. She suggested three possibilities: At first/First/ In the end , the thieves might try to sell the coins to a collector. This was considered to be rather unlikely, as it would be easy to find the coins. Meanwhile/Second/Secondly , they might melt the coins and sell the gold from them. This was also thought to be unlikely, as the gold would be worth a lot less than the coins themselves. At the end/ Finally/Last , the coins might be sent abroad for sale in another country. This was seen as the most likely case.

During/ Meanwhile/While , the police have released a statement, announcing that they have a good idea who the thieves are. 'We are confident that we will catch them at the end/ finally/ in the end , even if it takes months, and we will return the coins to the museum.' the statement said.

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