

TIME ORDER

EXAMPLE A

Albert Einstein was born in 1879 in Ulm, Germany. He graduated from the University of Zurich in Switzerland in 1905. In 1905 he also did some of his most famous work in physics. In 1919 he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. Between 1919 and 1933 he lived in Germany and traveled a lot to talk to other scientists. Then in 1933 he had to leave Germany because of Hitler and the Nazi party. He moved to the United States. From 1933 until his death he lived in Princeton, New Jersey. He died on April 18, 1955.

What is the topic of this paragraph? _____

How can you tell this is a time order pattern? _____

You can tell because the signals in this paragraph are all dates. Each date points to an event in the life of Albert Einstein. Here are all the signals. Write the events:

Signals	Events
1879	_____
1905	_____
1905	_____
1919	_____
1919-1929	_____
1933	_____
1933-1955	_____
April 19, 1955	_____

EXAMPLE B

This paragraph is about the same events as Example A. But the signal words are different.

Albert Einstein was born near the end of the 1800s, in Ulm, Germany. He graduated from the University of Zurich in Switzerland at age 26. That was also when he did his famous work in physics. Fourteen years later he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. For the next ten years he lived in Germany. He also traveled a lot to talk with other scientists. Then in the early 1930s he had to leave Germany because of Hitler and the Nazi Party. He moved to the United States. From that time until his death he lived in Princeton, New Jersey. He died at the age of 74.

Here are the signals. Write the events:

Signals	Events
near the end of the 19th century	_____
at the age of 26	_____
That was also when	_____
Fourteen years later	_____
For the next ten years	_____
In the early 1930s	_____
From that time until his death	_____
at the age of 74	_____

Dates are often signals for the time order pattern. Here are some other time order signal words:

first	next	soon	after	at last	finally	dates
last	later	before	while	then	times	

Exercise 1

Read each passage. Write the topic and underline the signals. Then write the signals and the events on the lines. The Answer Key is on page 265.

1

The Vietnam War began soon after World War II. At first, in 1946, the war was between the Vietnamese and the French. The government was French, but many Vietnamese people did not want a French government. They wanted the French to leave so they could have their own government. The Vietnamese fought hard, and slowly they won more and more land. By 1953, the French army was in trouble. They were not winning the war. French soldiers were dying and the war was costing a lot of money. So, in 1954, the French army stopped fighting and left Vietnam. That was the end of the first part of the Vietnam War.

Topic _____

Signal	Events
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2

The second part of the Vietnam War began in 1954. After the French army left, there were two Vietnams: North Vietnam and South Vietnam. There were also two governments. But both governments wanted to be the only government for all of Vietnam. So from 1954 until 1960, the North and the South were fighting all the time. The North Vietnamese grew slowly stronger. By the beginning of 1965, the North Vietnamese were winning the war. But the United States government did not want the North Vietnamese to win. So in March 1965, the United States began to help South Vietnam. They sent guns and airplanes to help the South. At first, the United States sent only a few soldiers. But by July 1965, there were about 75,000 American soldiers in Vietnam.

Topic _____

Signals	Events
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Exercise 2

1

In 1965 the Vietnam War became an American war. That year, the United States sent airplanes with bombs over North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese were moving into South Vietnam and the United States government wanted to stop them. More and more bombs were used each year. The bombs killed thousands of North Vietnamese men, women, and children. Thousands more lost their homes and their land. The United States also sent more soldiers every year. By the end of 1967, there were almost 510,000 Americans in Vietnam. And still, the North Vietnamese were winning the war.

Topic _____

Signal

Events

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2

In the United States, some people did not want the war. In the early 1960s only a few people felt this way. But by the late 1960s many people believed Americans should not be fighting in Vietnam. Finally, the American government had to listen to these people. In May 1968, the Americans began to talk to North Vietnam about stopping the war. For the next few months, fewer bombs were used against the North. By the end of the year, the bombing stopped. It still took a long time to end the war. American soldiers started to go home in 1970. The last Americans left three years later.

Topic _____

Signal

Events

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____