

Time order

Use a time clause in a sentence to show the order of events.

We visited the old part of town **after we had lunch**.

We checked into our hotel **before we had lunch**.

You can begin a sentence with a time clause. Most writers use a comma when the time clause comes first.

After we had lunch, we visited the old part of town.

Before we had lunch, we checked into our hotel.

Use transition signals to show time order in a paragraph. Use **First** to begin a series and **Finally** to end one. Use **Then**, **Next**, and **After that** to indicate a series of events. Commas are optional.

First, we checked in to our hotel. **After** we had lunch, we visited the old part of town and took pictures. **Then**, we went to the beach and lay in the sun for a while. **Next**, we played golf. **After that**, we went shopping and bought a rug. **Finally**, we went back to our hotel.

A On a separate sheet of paper, use the cues to write sentences. Begin each sentence with a time clause.

1 **(before)** First we had lunch. Then we went to the beach.
Before we went to the beach, we had lunch

2 **(after)** First we visited Rome. Then we went to Venice.

3 **(before)** First they went snorkeling. After that, they had lunch.

4 **(after)** He arrived in Miami on Saturday. Then he looked for a hotel.

5 **(before)** I spent three days in Mexico City. Next I flew to Cancún.

6 **(after)** She got back from the airport. After that, she called her mother.

7 **(before)** The weather was beautiful. Then it rained.

B On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the paragraph, using time-order transition words.

Let me tell you about my trip. I flew from New York to London, and I spent two days there. I took the train through the Chunnel to Paris. Paris was amazing. I got a car and drove to Rome. It was a long drive, but it was really scenic. I took a boat to the island of Sardinia. It was very beautiful. I flew back to London and back home to New York.

C Guidance for the Writing Exercise (on page 84) Write sentences describing your vacation in the order that the events happened. Then use your sentences to write your paragraph, using time clauses and time-order transition words.