

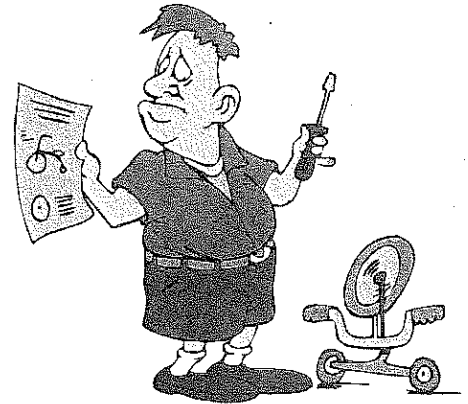
Chapter 2 • Lesson 12

Sequence

Getting the Idea

Sequence is the arrangement of information in order of occurrence or steps. Sequence is the typical organizational structure for instructions. **Instructions** are detailed directions on procedure. Instructions explain how to do a wide variety of things, including how to assemble a bicycle, install a software program, or make lasagna.

The sequence of steps in instructions is important because if the steps are written out of order or performed out of order, the instructions will be difficult to follow. The goal of instructions is to achieve a final product or to complete a procedure. If an instructional manual tells you to dry the area around a leaky pipe thoroughly before applying tape or putty, and you tape the pipe before you dry it, the tape is not going to stick properly. Failure to follow the correct sequence in instructions can prevent you from accomplishing your goal.



Read the instructions for changing traffic lanes below:

1. Check the traffic around you by looking in front of you, in your mirrors, and in your blind spot.
2. Turn on your signal to alert the drivers around you that you will be changing lanes.
3. Check your blind spot one more time before changing lanes.
4. Adjust your speed to match the speed of traffic in the new lane.
5. Change lanes with a smooth, gradual movement.
6. Turn off your signal as soon as you have changed lanes.

Now, imagine that you're changing lanes and you skip step 3. If a car moved into your blind spot between the time you turned on your signal and when you began to move into the next lane, you could cause an accident. You certainly do not want to do step 5 before you do all of the previous steps. Of course, following the right sequence does not always involve life-or-death decisions, but if you want to complete any set of instructions successfully, pay attention to the order of steps.

The steps in instructions are often numbered to make it easier to follow the correct order. In addition, instructions include words and phrases that help the reader keep track of the right sequence. Read the chart below.

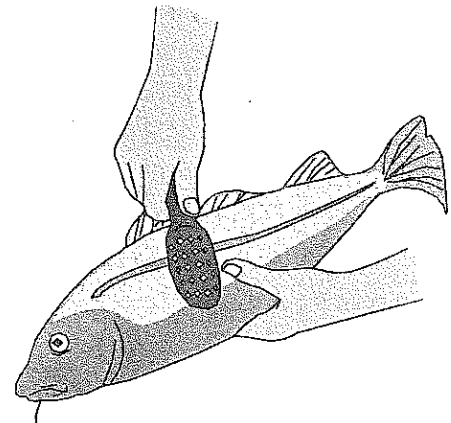
Sequence Words and Phrases		
after	first	now
afterward	immediately	previous
as soon as	in the meantime	second
before	last	then
during	meanwhile	third
finally	next	while

Thinking It Through


Read the following instructions, and then answer the question that follows.

How to Clean a Fish

1. Wash the fish using fresh tap water.
2. Remove the scales by scraping the fish with a fish scaler or the dull edge of a knife. Use short strokes.
3. Make a cut from the gills to the vent.
4. Use your fingers to remove the entrails.
5. Rinse the cavity thoroughly.
6. If you are cooking the fish whole, remove the dorsal fin. Cut along each side of it and pull the fin out with pliers.
7. Wash the fish inside and out, using fresh, cold water.



Which step should be done right after removing the entrails?

 Review the sequence of steps in the instructions.

Adjectives and Adverbs

Getting the Idea

An **adjective** is a word that describes or modifies a **noun** or **pronoun**. Read the sentences below. The underlined words are adjectives.

The heavy package was too cumbersome for Emile to lift.

Although Leslie felt frustrated, she was too stubborn to give up.

The cool river was a refreshing break from the stifling heat.

An adjective can appear before or after the word that it modifies. Two or more adjectives may modify a word. Usually, an adjective that is considered an observation, such as an adjective that expresses an opinion, comes before an adjective that describes physical appearance, such as the size, shape, age, color, or material. For example, you would not write: "Neema wore a gold beautiful necklace." It is best to say: "Neema wore a beautiful gold necklace."

Adjectives can express degrees of comparison. Comparative adjectives compare two nouns or pronouns. Superlative adjectives express the highest or lowest degree of a noun or pronoun. Typically, superlative adjectives compare at least three things. Read the chart below.

Comparative	Superlative
happier	happiest
lovelier	loveliest
wiser	wisest

Many words cannot be made comparative or superlative by adding *-er* or *-est* to the ending. For instance, it is incorrect to say *dangerouser* or *dangerousest*. Add the words *more*, *most*, *less*, or *least* before the adjective: *more dangerous*, *most dangerous*, *less dangerous*, *least dangerous*. Do not add *-er* or *-est* if you also use *more*, *most*, *less*, or *least*. For example, it is incorrect to say "more smarter" or "least smartest." Some adjectives change internally in comparative or superlative form. See the chart below.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
much, many	more	most
little	less	least

Thinking It Through 2

Read the following sentences. Write them correctly on the lines provided. If the sentence is correct, write "correct as is."

1. Christine argued impressive in the debate, despite feeling really sickly.

Hint Which words describe how Christine argued and felt? Are their forms correct?

2. Jonathan was not too proudly to accept Roger's help gratefully.

Hint Distinguish between adjectives and adverbs.

3. Despite your unbelievable poorly understanding of scientifically principles, you did very good on the exam.

4. Ethan found the insufficiently salted fries particularly unappealing.

5. Maya's incessantly chattering nearly drove her weary family insanely.

6. Understandable, Mr. Sabatino was great relieved when he did not need the experimental surgery.
