

## Lesson 9 When Did It Happen?

Remember those fairy tales that begin with “Once upon a time”? “Once upon a time” is not a specific time, but it does give some information about when the story takes place.

When writing, it helps your readers to know when things happen. For example, if your main character is just waking up, what time is it? If it is midnight, the main character might be scared. If it is breakfast time, it might be time to wake up anyway. If it is after noon, maybe your character slept through the whole day!

When could things happen in a story? Think of all the **time words** or phrases you can. Some ideas are listed below.

midnight  
at breakfast

in the afternoon  
today

April  
three days ago

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

Now, use some of the time words you listed.

Write a sentence from a story you might write. Use a time word or phrase at the beginning of your sentence.

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Write a sentence about something you did recently. Use a time word or phrase in the middle or at the end of your sentence.

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In addition to time words, **transition words** help our readers know when things happen and in what order. Here are some common transition words.

after	as soon as	before	during
finally	first	later	meanwhile
next	soon	then	when

Here is an example of some transition words in action. Circle the transition words when you find them. Underline the time words.

Practice had been over for half an hour, and Mom still hadn't picked me up. I grumbled to myself. Then, as soon as she drove up, I figured it out. This was the day of her big meeting. She was all dressed up. That's why she had been late. Later, I said I was sorry for being mad at her.

Use some transition words in sentences. Use some time words from the list on page 29, as well.

Write about something that happens in the morning.

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Write about two things that happen at the same time.

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Write about three things that happen in order.

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