



Cues, Sequences, and Transition Words

Size Sequence: When details are larger/smaller than each other.

the smallest	larger than	the largest	the small-sized
the larger of	equal to	the smallest	the medium-sized
the largest	smaller than	the next smallest	the large-sized

Time Sequence: When some details occur before others in time.

first	now	at the beginning	before
then	soon	in the middle	during/meanwhile
next	then	at the end	after/afterwards
last	until	so far	later
by this time	first	in the morning	yesterday
at the same time	second	before noon	today
at that instant	third	in the afternoon	tomorrow
since	finally	in the evening	the day after tomorrow
	previously		
the oldest	in the past	the next day	this year
the recent	in the present	two weeks later	next year
the most recent	in the future	six months later	in the next few years
to begin with			
the earliest			
the next earliest			
the most recent			

Space Sequence: When details are arranged spatially in relationship to one another.

behind	on the edge	beside	in front of	west of	highest
over	toward	around	in back of	east of	against
under	throughout	side by side	facing	north of	alongside
below	to the right of	close to	in the center	south of	ahead of
beneath	to the left of	next to	inside	at the	here
low down	on top of	near	outside	in the	there
above	away	far	across		

(From Backwards Planning for Success with Writing ♦ www.knoxeducation.com Narrative Writing Section – Page 26)
You can also find these in the Standards Toolkits section of our website at knoxeducation.com



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Important Sequence: When some details are more important than others.

the best	the most important	the first interesting	the best
the next best	the next most important	more interesting	the next best
the least best	the least important	the most interesting	the worst

Chain-Link Sequence: When details are not uniquely related; they can be chained together any way that you want them to be.

one example of	in addition	on the one hand	also	is
another example	in the same way	on the other hand	so	because
a further example	in fact	again	since	still
furthermore	a similarity	besides	yet	although
the latest example	still another	nevertheless	as well	while
moreover	in spite of	consequently	except	conversely

Transitional Sequence: When ideas/details are being integrated; they can be linked using transitional words.

and	also	in addition	furthermore
plus	besides	otherwise	moreover
too	after	after that	not only
likewise	another	similarly	at the same time
another	however	for example	for instance
instead	therefore	thus	when

Final Sequence: When ideas are being concluded.

finally	therefore	consequently	in conclusion
then	by now	for this reason	

Contrast Cues: When words are needed to indicate relations of degree.

only	many	most	more	least
little	some	worst	all	fewer
fewest	almost	best		

Cause/Effect Cues: When words are needed to signal cause and/or effect.

by	because	since	as a result	as a consequence
then	unless	therefore	so that	this is the reason

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