

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

The Berlin Wall, 1961

14. Conjunctions V – First, Next, After, Before, Later, Initially, At last, Also, In addition, Meanwhile, Simultaneously, Furthermore, Finally

(If you do not want your essay to sound like Primary School, avoid the word 'then'!)

Narrative is a key historian's skill. To write the simplest narratives, you must:

- a) Plan out the sequence of events/developments you intend to describe, in their best logical order.
 - b) Use that list to 'tell the story', using the most appropriate conjunctions of time and sequence (above).
 - c) Provide some relevant information about each event/development.
1. Using the skills you rehearsed in [Exercise 10](#), make your own timeline from [the webpage](#) of the story of the Berlin Wall.

You will start, of course, with the section on 'EVENTS' and the following table...

Conjunction	Date	Event summary
First,	Nov 1958	Khrushchev's Ultimatum _____
< _____ >	_____	_____
< _____ >	_____	_____
< _____ >	_____	_____
< _____ >	13 August 1961	_____

However, if you scan-read down the page, you will be able to find other relevant dates to add before and after these five key dates – jot them down, with a short note as to what happened, so as to complete the table.

2. Now:
 - a) Think which conjunction of time/sequence you would use to introduce each development;
 - b) Identify the information' for each event provided on the timeline;so as to plan a narrative of the story of the Berlin Wall.
3. Spend some time thinking of some sequence markers of your own – conjunctions such as "Suddenly...", or phrases such as: "A major development was..."
4. Look back at some of the timelines you prepared in Exercise 10. Decide appropriate temporal conjunctions/ sequence markers for the events in those lists.