

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.

Why the League failed

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 13, make your own timeline from [the webpage](#) of the story of the League of Nations 1936-39 – ie AFTER the disaster of Abyssinia. Scan-read down the page, finding the relevant dates mentioned, and jot them down, with a short note as to what happened, so as to complete the following table:

Conjunction	Date	Event summary
First,	1936	Reform Committee _____
< _____ >	_____	_____
< _____ >	_____	_____
< _____ >	_____	_____
< _____ >	12 April 1946	_____

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 League of Nations after Abyssinia

3. Go back to the [Manchuria](#) webpage. Focussing on the dates:

- a) Construct a '**Conjunction / Date / Event Summary**' table (like the one above) of the key dates of the Manchurian Crisis;
- b) Think which conjunction of time/sequence you would use to introduce each development;
- c) Find relevant information about each event;

To plan a simple narrative of the story of the Manchurian Crisis.