



Time Adverbials

What you will need:

- A stick as long as your forearm
- Small pieces of paper
- Pegs (or another type of clip)
- Pens
- String (or elastic bands)
- Optional writing materials

What are time adverbials?

These are words or phrases which tell us when the sentence is taking place. For example, it would describe when, for how long or how often an action is. Below are a list of some time adverbials that children in KS1 would typically use:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| • First | • Tomorrow |
| • Next | • Recently |
| • Then | • Now |
| • Finally | • Yesterday |
| • Later | • Before |
| • Eventually | • After |
| • Early | • Since |
| • Today | • Earlier |

At this stage in their learning, children would typically use these time adverbials at the start of sentences. If your child is in year 2, they would be expected to use a comma after the adverbial.





Time Adverbials

Begin by setting up the activity. For this, you will need lots of small pieces of paper. On these pieces of paper write down a selection of different words (one word on each piece of paper). These words should include some of the time adverbials mentioned above and other non-related words e.g. book, school, tree etc. Then hide these words around your outdoor space (or alternatively this can be done indoors).

Once the activity is set up, start by discussing with your child what time adverbials are. They may have forgotten this set phrase, that is okay, just prompt them with words such as: First, Next, Then, Finally. They will soon remember using these in class and together you can recap their meaning (using the guidance above).

Explain to your child that you have hidden lots of different words in your outdoor space; some of them are time adverbials and tell us when a sentence is taking place, and some of them are just random words. Ask them to go on a hunt for the time adverbials (give them a time limit of around 2-5 minutes, depending on the size of your space). When they find the time adverbials, they can peg these up on a washing line (alternatively line them up on the floor) for added fun!

Once the time limit is up, go through the words they have found, with them, to check they are time adverbials.





Time Adverbials

Now, go with your child on a journey around your outdoor space (or indoors) with a stick. On the way, encourage your child to pick up things that interest them and attach them to their stick, using string or elastic bands. Once they have picked up around 4-5 items, discuss with them the items they have found.

Then, either give them a selection of time adverbials to choose from (use the pieces of paper you have already written on from earlier). Or, you could ask them to decide on the time adverbials they want to use. Place these next to the stick, in a logical order (e.g. using First, Next, Then, Finally). See photo below for an example.



Now, ask them to recount their journey using the time adverbials they have placed next to each item. To extend their learning, encourage them to use adjectives to describe the items they have found, in their sentences. If they wish to, they could then write down their recount.

