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CHAPTER 4

Identifying Sequence

? What is Identifying Sequence?

Many pieces of writing tell you about things or events that happen step by step or one after the other. Stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. History books often describe events from past to future. In cookbooks, science experiments, and instructions for putting a toy together, events and steps are written in a certain order. Such an order is called **sequence**. To understand what you're reading, you have to place events and steps in the correct sequence. Most reading tests will include questions on **identifying sequence** in several forms. There can be sequences of events in time, of steps in directions, or of places on a map. You will have to understand the sequence to know if points are being missed or left out.

Identifying sequence can be especially important when you're following a set of directions. You need to identify correctly the sequence of steps. Keep in mind that numbers, dates, and words like *before* and *after* are often good clues to the right sequence. Some other clue words to help you identify sequence are: *next*, *then*, *first*, *last*, *earlier*, *later*, *finally*, *now*, and *as soon as*. These clue words are especially helpful when a passage mentions events in an order different from the one in which they actually happened.

? What do I know about Identifying Sequence?

Here is a recipe. Read the directions for it. Then answer the questions that follow.

Hopping John

Here's a recipe for a Southern American treat. People eat it on New Year's Day to bring good luck for the coming year.

In a large covered pan, bring to boil 1 1/4 cups dry black-eyed peas in 4 cups water. After boiling 2 minutes, remove the pan from the stove and let stand for an hour. Then add 1 1/2 cups chopped onions, one clove of garlic, 1/2 teaspoon pepper, 1/4 teaspoon hot red pepper, and a bay leaf. Bring it to a boil again. This time cover the pan and let it simmer for about an hour, stirring every once in a while.

Now stir in 8 oz. coarsely chopped salt pork. Simmer for another hour uncovered, stirring often. Remove the salt pork and the bay leaf. Mash slightly before serving. Season to taste.

Which of these steps do you do *first*?

- A Simmer for an hour with the pan covered.
- B Simmer for an hour with the pan uncovered.
- C Boil the peas in water for two minutes.
- D Add the onions, garlic, pepper, and bay leaf.

Was your answer choice C? Do you see how important identifying a sequence can be, whether you are cooking, doing a science experiment, or building a birdhouse?

For this recipe you remove the salt pork

- F while the partly boiled peas are standing
- G before you add the onions, garlic, pepper, and bay leaf
- H after you add the onions, garlic, pepper, and bay leaf
- J after the second time you let the pot simmer for an hour

The correct answer is J. Note that choice H would also be true. But on a reading test, you're being asked to identify the last thing you do before the step named in the question.



Look at this sequence of boxes. Which step belongs in Box 2?

- A Boil for two minutes.
- B Uncover pan.
- C Add salt pork.
- D Remove salt pork.

The road leaves the river valley at mile 29, in a forest of mostly cedar, tamarack, and Douglas fir. On your right, just past mile 34, is the entrance to Mildred Carnes State Park. There is fishing and camping, as well as over 60 miles of hiking trails.

Two miles past the park entrance is Dawber Pass, at 1,541 feet the highest point on the road. At mile 42 is the town of Dawber Creek, founded in 1870. The old stagecoach stop has been turned into an interesting museum, with exhibits on local wildlife, Native American culture, and early settlement.

Past the town, you will see more homes and businesses as you travel down toward Interstate 7. Don't miss the Lyn Larson Gallery, on the right side of the road just before mile 53. Check out Lyn's work and other local artists', too.

- 1** On Route 46, you can get a good breakfast
- A** after the road crisscrosses the river
 - B** after the road leaves the river valley
 - C** before you get to the town of Klimloop
 - D** before you pass the picnic areas

Explain how you decided on your answer.

- 2** Which of these things happened *third*?
- F** The town of Klimloop was built.
 - G** The valley was intensely logged.
 - H** A railroad to the coast was completed.
 - J** Dairy farms were started in the valley.
- 3** Klimloop began to revive as a town
- A** after the land was sold off for dairy farms
 - B** after the railroad was completed
 - C** before the town of Dawber Creek was founded
 - D** before Klimloop Pacific started logging in the valley