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CHAPTER 4

Identifying Sequence

? What is Identifying Sequence?

Writing is linear. Events in fiction and in nonfiction happen in a certain **sequence**. To understand what you're reading, you have to mentally place them in the correct order. Most reading tests will include questions on **identifying sequence** in several forms.

Identifying sequence can be especially important when you're following a set of directions. You need to correctly identify the sequence of steps. Words like *after*, *before*, *next*, *then*, *first*, *last*, *meanwhile*, *earlier*, *later*, *afterward*, *finally*, and *as soon as* can be clues to identifying sequence. So can time words such as dates, hours, and days of the week. These clues are especially helpful when a passage presents events out of order.

? What do I know about Identifying Sequence?

Here is a set of driving directions, along with a map. Read the directions and look at the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

Exit the highway at route 151. Turn left and go through Bloomington—you will pass some franchise stores and fast-food outlets. At Lopat's Restaurant, turn left onto Hibbard Road. You'll follow it for approximately four miles. Look for some groves of trees on the right. Past the second grove, turn right onto County Road 54. Past the 6th mailbox on your right, you will see a long driveway. You can't see our house from the road, but that's where you want to turn.



You turn onto County Road 54

- A** before you go through Bloomington
- B** after you go through Bloomington
- C** after you come to the 6th mailbox on your right
- D** after you pass the second grove of trees

The question asks you to choose the *last* thing you did before turning onto County Road 54. Choice A is not true, because one of the first things the directions say to do is to go through Bloomington. Choice B is not the last thing before County Road 54. And choice C is after County Road 54. That leaves choice D. The sixth sentence says, “Past the second grove, turn right onto County Road 54.” So choice D is the correct answer.

Imagine that you are on County Road 54 and someone asks you how to get to a fast-food restaurant. How would you direct the person?

- F** Go south on County Road 54, turn left onto Hibbard Road, and right on route 151.
- G** Go north on County Road 54 and you’ll run into a restaurant before you reach Bloomington.
- H** Go south on County Road 54, left onto Hibbard Road and left on route 151.
- J** Go south on County Road 54 and right onto Hibbard Road.

To answer this question, carefully match the answer choices with the map. The only directions that take you to a fast-food restaurant on the map are the first set. Choice F is the correct answer.

Read this recipe. Then answer the questions that follow.

New England Clam Chowder

Scrub one quart of freshly dug clams. Place them in a covered kettle with one cup of water and cook over medium-high heat until the clams open. Strain and save the liquid. Remove the clams from the shells, then chop the clams.

Peel and dice three cups of potatoes. Boil in water for about five minutes. Cut four slices of salt pork into small pieces. Fry in a pan and place on paper towels. Pour off most of the fat, saving about two

Read this passage and answer the questions that follow.

On Friday, June 16, we will be saying *adiós* to Ms. Lila Argent. She is retiring after 41 years of teaching Spanish, with the last 17 years at Gable Middle School. Ms. Argent will be honored at a school assembly on Wednesday, June 14. All of her students, past and present, are invited to attend. Last week, Ms. Argent was presented with the district's Most Inspiring Teacher award. Following her last day, Ms. Argent will be off on a trip to Mexico before returning home to enjoy her retirement, her garden, and her grandchildren.

Lila Argent was born in Sedalia, Missouri, in 1936. She was a 1958 graduate of Southwest Missouri State College. Two years later, after earning her master's degree, Ms. Argent began her teaching career in Denver, Colorado. She came to Gable Middle School in 1984, after 13 years of directing the bilingual education program at Chetwood Junior High School in San Diego, California.



What is the correct sequence of these events?

- 1 Ms. Argent's retirement day
- 2 Ms. Argent leaves for Mexico
- 3 Ms. Argent receives a district award
- 4 Ms. Argent is honored at an assembly

A 1, 2, 3, 4

C 3, 4, 1, 2

B 1, 4, 3, 2

D 3, 1, 4, 2

Was your answer C? If not, read the first paragraph again. Be sure to note all of the clue words that help you identify the sequence.