



These are called **sequence** adverbs.

Adverbs that tell us **when** things are done are useful if we are writing an **explanation**, or **recounting** something that we did.

Very young children often just use **and then**.

I woke up early and then I got out of bed. I went to get washed. I cleaned my teeth and then I brushed my hair. I went downstairs and then I had my breakfast and then I packed my bag for school.



There are much better **words** and **phrases** to show the **sequence** of actions.

I woke up early and got out of bed. Next, I began to get ready for school. First of all, I went to the bathroom. After I had washed, I cleaned my teeth and lastly brushed my hair. Finally, I went downstairs for breakfast. Afterwards, I packed my bag for school.

Using these sorts of words and phrases rather than **and then** makes our writing much more interesting and **cohesive**.

Focus

Copy and complete the sentences with *sequence adverbs* from the box.

next before firstly finally after

- 1 _____ we had finished supper, we washed up.
- 2 You must wash your hands _____ you touch food.
- 3 I put the washing in the machine. _____ I put in the powder.
- 4 After many tries, she _____ got the lid off the jar!
- 5 _____, I have to say that I am surprised at you.



Practice

Write a sentence for each of the three actions in each group.

Use *sequence adverbs* (words or phrases) to show the order in which they happened.

Try to use different **sequence adverbs** in each group. The first one has been done for you.

Group 1

- found an injured bird
- put it in a box
- took it to the vet

Last night, we found an injured bird. **At first**, we put it in a box to keep warm. **Eventually**, we took it to the vet.

Group 2

- paddled in the sea
- built sandcastles
- had a picnic

Group 3

- picked blackberries
- made pie
- ate the pie

Group 4

- tackled a player
- passed the ball
- scored a goal

Extension

You can use **adverbs** to say how **possible** or **likely** something is.
Perhaps we will go to the park today.
We will **definitely** go to the park today.

Here are some more adverbs showing **possibility**.

certainly definitely probably possibly maybe surely perhaps

Copy the adverbs and sort them under the headings below.

Very possible

Quite possible

Might be possible