Essential Skill: “When” Adverbs

The World’s Fair

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret.

One time when I was younger, I found an incredible antique in my grandmother's attic. It was an old suitcase filled with things about the World's Fair. Inside the suitcase, there were postcards, photos, and rolls of film.

I wasn't sure what the World's Fair was, so I asked my grandmother. She told me that the World's Fair is a big event where people from around the world share new ideas and inventions. The fair usually has lots of rides and attractions. It's like a huge festival full of cool discoveries and fun things to do. It's where the world was first introduced to the Ferris wheel, a new device called the telephone, and even the first ice cream cone. Different countries take turns hosting the World's Fair.

Here's some photos from past World's Fairs.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you notice about these old photos from the World's Fairs?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said that some of the photos are in black and white, or maybe that the people are wearing old styles of clothing. Whatever you came up with is great!

Inside the old suitcase, I also found a photo album. But on one of the pages, the photos had fallen out of place. I wanted to put the photos back. But without knowing more details about when the photos were taken, I couldn't know for sure how to put them back in the right order.

I decided to use something called a timeline to map out the problem. It's a great way to visually organize things by time, showing us when things happen. The picture of fireworks—when did they see it? Was it at the beginning of their trip or closer to the end? Did they see the cars first, or was it after they ate cotton candy?

I then noticed this postcard on the next page. Here's what it said:

> *Dear Mom,*
>
> *Today we went to the World's Fair! Earlier this morning, we went to a car show. Now we're trying cotton candy! Later on, we'll see the fireworks.*
>
> *Today is the best day ever!*

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: How does this postcard help to show the order of the photographs?

HOOK 3

Maybe you said that it uses words like *earlier* and *later* or that it describes when things actually happened. You might have said something else, and that's great!

I realized that the postcard could help me put the photos in the right order. Words like *earlier, now,* and *later* tell us if something has already happened—"Earlier this morning, we went to a car show," is happening—"Now we're trying cotton candy" or will happen—"Later on, we'll see the fireworks."

This post card does a great job describing when things happened, and I can now place the three photos back in the right order.

As writers, it's really important to describe when things happen so that we can show exactly how one thing leads to another, making our stories easier to follow and understand. If we don't describe when things happen, our stories could get mixed up and become confusing, just like the photos in the photo album.

Here's another postcard that I found:

> *The marching band is playing now. Earlier, we fed the squirrels. Later, we're going to drive downtown!*
>
> *What a day!*

Here, the words *now, earlier,* and *later* tell us when things happened. "The marching band is playing now"—this tells us that it is happening in the moment or at the same time they were writing the postcard. "Earlier, we fed the squirrels"—this tells us that it already happened, that they fed the squirrels before they wrote the postcard. "Later, we're going to drive downtown"—tells us that they haven't gone there yet, it'll be something that happens at a later time.

Now it's your turn to imagine what it would be like to go to a World's Fair. You'll use your imagination and then describe what your perfect day at the fair would be like.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone has a partner, click the arrow to go to the next step.

STEP 3

Using your imagination, pretend that you're visiting the latest World's Fair. It's filled with rides, exhibits, and lots of people. When the fair gates first open, what do you imagine that you already did? You could have ridden a roller coaster, played carnival games, or watched the acrobats.

Discuss with your partner: What did you do and why?

STEP 4

Find the "Build Your Timeline" section on your worksheet. Write what you chose on the line under "Earlier," here.

STEP 5

Pretend that it's now lunchtime at the fair and you get to choose the dessert. There's ice cream, cotton candy, fresh fruit, and churros.

Discuss with your partner: What would you choose and why?

STEP 6

Write the dessert on the line under "Now," here.

STEP 7

Later on, the sun will set at the fair, and there will be lots of nighttime activities and events. Like the amazing drone show, or a ride on the Ferris wheel, or the incredible fireworks event.

Discuss with your partner: What nighttime activity would you choose to do and why?

STEP 8

Write the activity here on the line under "Later."

STEP 9

Nice job! You now have a full timeline of your perfect day at the World's Fair. Remember, you're imagining that you're actually at the fair, in the middle of your perfect day.

Find the "Earlier, Now, and Later" section on your worksheet. Using what you wrote under "Earlier," write a sentence describing what you did earlier in the day here. If you need help, use your Word Bank.

STEP 10

Using what you wrote for "Now," write a sentence here, describing what you're doing.

STEP 11

Finally, using what you wrote for "Later," write a sentence here, describing what you'll be doing later in the day.

STEP 12

Take turns reading what you wrote for all three sentences with your partner.

STEP 13

Now that you have your three sentences, you can use them to write a more detailed postcard describing the day using your own words.

For example: "Earlier, we rode the roller coaster." Could become, "Earlier, we rode the roller coaster and I screamed from excitement." Or, "Later, we'll watch the fireworks." Could become, "Later, when it gets dark, the fireworks show will begin. I can't wait!"

Find the "Your Perfect Day" section on your worksheet. Using different words to describe when things happen, write three sentences describing your day at the fair. Feel free to write more than three sentences if you want. And if you need help, use your Word Bank.

By adding more details to your postcard or story, it'll help make it more exciting and easier to follow.

STEP 14

Take turns reading what you wrote to your partner.

WRAP UP

Great job! By adding details and using words like *now, later,* and *soon* to tell us exactly when things happen, you'll make your perfect day at the fair postcard more exciting and easier to follow. So, the next time you want to write about something that happened:

- *Earlier*, I played soccer at the park.
- *Before* I went to bed, I ate some ice cream.
- *Tomorrow*, I'm going to the aquarium.

Remember to use words that describe when things happen connecting all of the different parts of your story together.

See you next time, writers.