

TABE
ELA-E
PAXEN

Unit-4
Vocabulary and Word Use

Lesson-29
Signal Words

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ELA-E-29 Signal Words

Lesson 29

Signal Words

3.L.6 — High

Signal words tell the relationships between things, events, and ideas. Some signal words tell when events take place.

Examples

I went to the store. **Then** I picked up the kids from school. **Finally**, I made dinner. (The signal words tell about time relationships. A reader can put the events in order based on the signal words. The events happened in this order: 1. went to store, 2. picked up the kids, 3. made dinner. The words *then* and *finally* signal the order.)

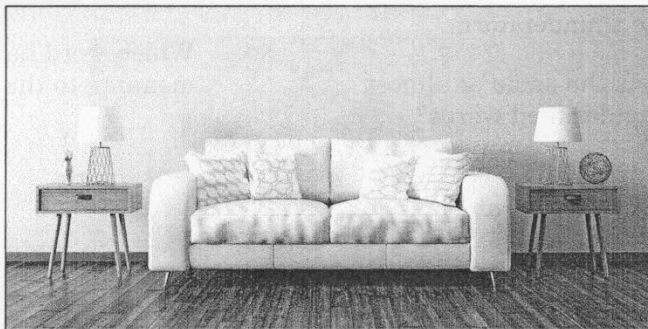
Before I started building the furniture, I looked at the instructions. (The signal word tells about time relationships. The events happened in this order: 1. I looked at the instructions; 2. I started building the furniture. Even though *building the furniture* appears first in the sentence, the signal word *before* shows the real time order of the events.)

Other signal words tell where something is.

Examples

On the left, you can find the items for sale. (The signal words tell about space. *On the left* helps readers understand where the items are located.)

The sofa is **between** two end tables. (The signal word tells about space. *Between* helps readers understand where the sofa is compared to the end tables.)



Test Example

1. Read the sentences.

_____, I need to buy the ingredients. Then I can make the pie.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Next
- B. First
- C. Second
- D. Finally

B. The signal word *first* tells which event needs to happen before the other.

Strategy

Ask yourself whether the sentence is telling about events or objects. A sentence about events generally uses time signal words, which tell when an event happens. A sentence about objects generally uses space signal words, which tell where objects are.

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Practice

1 Read the sentences.

First, dig a hole. Next, plant the seed. _____, water the seed. Last, prune the plant as it grows.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Then B. Above
C. Second D. Finally

2 Read the sentence.

_____ you play the board game, you need to learn the rules.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Next B. First
C. Before D. Finally

3 Read the sentence.

_____ the movie is over, I will go to bed.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Next B. Until
C. After D. Across

4 Read the sentence.

_____, you will find the door to the boardroom.

Which signal word or words best fill in the blank?

- A. Until B. Before
C. As soon as D. To your right

5 Read the sentences.

We have a lot of issues to discuss first. _____ we can break for lunch.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Third B. Until
C. Then D. Above

6 Read the sentence.

_____ I signed the paperwork, I could not use the gym.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. First B. Until
C. Under D. Finally

7 Read the sentence.

_____, there are a couple of gas stations on the road.

Which signal word or words best fill in the blank?

- A. Last B. Until
C. Second D. Directly ahead

8 Read the sentences.

You need to help with customer service now. _____, you can return stock to the shelves.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Later B. Before
C. While D. First

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Practice 29

Signal Words

3.L.6 – High

1 Read the sentence.

_____ the cake is finished baking, I will add frosting and decorations.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Until B. After
C. Before D. Next

2 Read the sentence.

Ms. Barbuto's office is located down the hall _____.

Which signal word or words best fill in the blank?

- A. on the right B. before
C. in an hour D. under

3 Read the sentences.

_____, pick up the order at the restaurant. Then, deliver the food to the address on the order form.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Before B. After
C. While D. First

4 Read the sentence.

Please place the box _____ the filing cabinet and the desk.

Which signal word or words best fill in the blank?

- A. finally B. as soon as
C. between D. at noon

5 Read the sentence.

The sales process is not complete _____ the customer gets a receipt.

Which signal word or words best fill in the blank?

- A. at first B. until
C. on the left D. behind

6 Read the sentence.

There should be a sign _____ that will tell us how many miles we still need to go.

Which signal word or words best fill in the blank?

- A. as soon as B. last
C. next to D. ahead

7 Read the sentences.

First, measure the wood carefully. _____, mark the beam with a pencil. Last, use a saw to make a clean cut.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Second B. While
C. Third D. Until

8 Read the sentence.

_____ I could enter the data, I needed to become familiar with the computer program.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Under B. Ahead
C. Above D. Before

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- 9 Read the sentences.

Today I assembled a table. First, I took all the pieces out of the box. Next, I completed steps one through nine in the instruction manual. _____, I tightened the last screw and declared the table ready to use!

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Behind B. While
C. Finally D. Across

- 10 Read the sentence.

In the fitness class Sakura teaches, some students lift weights _____ others run laps around the gym.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. third B. next
C. while D. above

- 11 Read the sentence.

I went to the garden to dig up the potatoes that were growing _____ the soil.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. under B. finally
C. then D. later

- 12 Read the sentence.

I will be ready to get in the car _____ I find my shoes.

Which signal words best fill in the blank?

- A. later today
B. directly ahead
C. on the left
D. as soon as

- 13 Read the sentence.

Please climb the ladder so that you can reach the shelf _____ the clock and bring down the stack of papers you find there.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. while B. above
C. first D. then

- 14 Read the sentences.

First, drive _____ the Smithfield Street Bridge. Then, turn right on Grant Street.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. second B. finally
C. before D. across

- 15 Read the sentences.

The first thing you will need to do is find the sponges and liquid soap. _____, collect all the dirty plates and cups in the sink. Then you will be ready to wash the dishes.

Which signal word best fills in the blank?

- A. Next B. Under
C. Between D. Ahead

- 16 Read the sentences.

The nearest grocery store is two blocks away. Walk past the corner of Davis Street and California Avenue. Then you will see the store _____.

Which signal word or words best fill in the blank?

- A. as soon as B. first
C. on your left D. until

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(3.L.6)

1. A. The step is the third but not final step. The word *then* shows that it comes after the second step.
2. C. It makes sense to learn the rules before playing a game.
3. C. It makes sense to go to bed after the movie is over.
4. D. The speaker is giving directions in a building; *to your right* shows a relationship of space.
5. C. The speaker is telling what needs to happen first—discussing issues. *Then* tells what can happen after that.
6. B. The word *until* tells what needs to happen first (signing the paperwork) before the second event (using the gym).
7. D. The speaker is giving directions to gas stations; *directly ahead* shows a relationship of space.
8. A. The speaker describes what event needs to happen now—helping customer service. *Later* tells the event that can happen in the future.

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(3.L.6)

1. B. It makes sense to frost and decorate a cake after it has finished baking.
2. A. The speaker is giving directions in a building; *on the right* shows a relationship of space.
3. D. The speaker is telling what needs to happen first—picking up the order. Then the order can be delivered accurately.
4. C. *Between* describes a relationship of space; the speaker is explaining where the box should be placed.
5. B. The word *until* signals what needs to happen first (the customer gets a receipt) before the second event (the sales process is complete).
6. D. The speaker is explaining where the sign should appear; *ahead* shows a relationship of space.
7. A. The second step occurs between the first step and the final step.
8. D. It makes sense to learn the computer program before using it to enter data.
9. C. The word *finally* tells what happens last in the process.
10. C. *While* is a signal word that indicates things are happening at the same time.
11. A. *Under* is a word that signals a relationship of space; the speaker is explaining where the potatoes can be found.
12. D. The words *as soon as* signal what needs to happen first (the speaker finds his shoes) before the second event (the speaker gets into the car).
13. B. The speaker is giving directions to find the stack of papers; *above* shows a relationship of space.
14. D. The speaker is giving directions; *across* shows a relationship of space.
15. A. This step is the second step but not the final step. *Next* shows that this step comes after the first step.
16. C. The speaker is giving directions; *on your left* shows a relationship of space.