

first = report, picture, on foot  
not part of the...

## Narrative = *narrative* *beginning of story*

Narrative, which means telling what happened, is one of the commonest of all the processes of writing. Generally speaking, it is important to follow the **chronological order** exactly, describing how one thing happens after another. (Literature is an exception, where flashbacks, anticipations of the story, and narratives which drift from association to association frequently occur.)

Here are some words and phrases associated with narrative (brackets indicate a word that is optional):

- To begin with
- At first
- Initially
- At the outset *(initially, first)*
- Before this/that
- Formerly
- Prior to this/that *(before)*
- Meanwhile *(at the same time)*
- While *(during)*
- Simultaneously (to this) *(at the same time)*
- In a separate development <sup>1</sup>
- At about the same time
- At roughly the same time as this
- At around this time
- While (all) this was happening
- Rumour has/had it that...
- It is/was widely rumoured that...
- There are/were persistent rumours (or reports) that...
- There are/were unconfirmed reports that... *(unconfirmed reports)*

<sup>1</sup> This expression, which means "simultaneously to this", is typical of BBC news broadcasts.

punctuation = *check*  
*check*  
*check*

- Just then
- Thereupon
- It was now that
- At this juncture <sup>1</sup>
- Next
- After this/that
- Afterwards
- Later (on)
- Subsequently *(subsequently)*
- Not long after this
- In the end
- In the event
- As it turned out
- Finally
- Eventually = *eventually*
- At last
- Ultimately *(ultimately)*
- The upshot was that... <sup>2</sup>

### Suggested Exercises (08):

1. Write a chronological description of your educational background.
- (2) Here are the bare details (in chronological order) of the troubles afflicting the British royal family in 1992, as well as a few pieces of important background-information. Write a simple summary, based on the past tense. Use the information selectively.

#### The Queen's Annus Horribilis

Newspapers carry photographs of Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, topless with a boyfriend (a Texas oilman) in front of her two children at a Mediterranean villa (January).

Sarah Ferguson ("Fergie") leaves her husband, Prince Andrew.

There is an announcement from Buckingham Palace that the five-year marriage between Sarah Ferguson and Prince Andrew is effectively over (late March).

The head of Buckingham Palace's press office describes the Duchess of

- <sup>1</sup> This expression, which means "simultaneously to this", is typical of BBC news broadcasts.
- <sup>2</sup> This expression is highly informal.