

## Narrative

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

Before this/that

Formerly

Prior to this/that

Meanwhile

While

Simultaneously (to this)

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...

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

Just then  
Thereupon  
It was now that  
At this juncture <sup>1</sup>

Next

After this/that

Afterwards

Later (on)

Subsequently

Not long after this

In the end

In the event

As it turned out

Finally

Eventually

At last

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.