

Temporal Concepts Worksheet

Before, after, first, next, last, yesterday and tomorrow.

MASTERED BY

First and last, and sequencing two events, generally come together around 4

ITEMS

18

Name: _____

Date: _____

Time words are abstract in a way that spatial words are not - there is nothing to point at. Worse, "before" and "after" can reverse the order the events are mentioned in: "before you eat, wash your hands" names eating first but requires washing first. Children who follow that sentence by doing whatever they heard first are not being careless; they are using a reasonable strategy that this particular sentence defeats.

What to expect: Expect "yesterday" to mean any time in the past for a good while - a child may say "yesterday we went to the beach" about a trip last summer. That is a vocabulary stage, not a memory problem. Order-of-mention errors on before and after are the thing to watch, and they resolve later than most people expect.

First, Next, Last

Put each set in order. Say what happens first, next and last.

1. eating the cake / lighting the candles / singing happy birthday
2. putting on socks / putting on shoes / tying laces
3. turning on the water / washing hands / drying hands
4. getting in the car / buckling the seatbelt / driving away
5. opening the book / reading the story / closing the book
6. cracking the eggs / mixing the batter / baking the cake

Before or After?

Answer each question. Watch out - the first thing said is not always the first thing that happens.

7. Before you eat, you wash your hands. What do you do first?
8. After you brush your teeth, you go to bed. What do you do first?
9. You put on your coat before you go outside. What do you do first?

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10. After the movie ended, we went home. What happened first?
 11. Before the sun comes up, it is dark. What happens first?
 12. We had dinner after we played outside. What did we do first?

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Fill in the blank with yesterday, today or tomorrow.

13. It is Tuesday now. Monday was ____.
14. It is Tuesday now. Wednesday is ____.
15. I am wearing my red shirt ____.
16. I went to the zoo ____ and it was closed.
17. My birthday is ____, so I am excited to go to sleep!
18. It rained ____, but the sun is out now.

Answer Key

First, Next, Last

1. light the candles, sing, eat the cake
2. socks, shoes, laces
3. water, wash, dry
4. get in, buckle, drive
5. open, read, close
6. crack, mix, bake

Before or After?

7. wash hands
8. brush teeth
9. put on coat
10. the movie ended
11. it is dark
12. played outside

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

13. yesterday
14. tomorrow
15. today
16. yesterday
17. tomorrow
18. yesterday