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Sequence

2.A.3.a, b 2.A.4.f

Do television listings show the night’s lineup in alphabetical order? That would make them confusing and hard to use. Schedules show things in **time** order. That makes it easy to see what is on right now, or at any other time.

Do the instructions for building a model say “At 11:00, snap Tab A into Slot B. At 11:05, fold Flap D”? Instructions are written in **sequence**, not time order. They give you the exact order (first, second, third) in which to do things.

Look Time and sequence are very similar. In many kinds of writing, they are treated as the same thing. For example, most narratives describe events as they unfold.

Example

Does the author of “To Touch the Sky” structure the passage in time order? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Olivia’s Answer

“To Touch the Sky” is not in time order. It jumps back and forth in time: it starts with the Wright Brothers in 1903, then jumps ahead to SpaceShipOne in 2004.

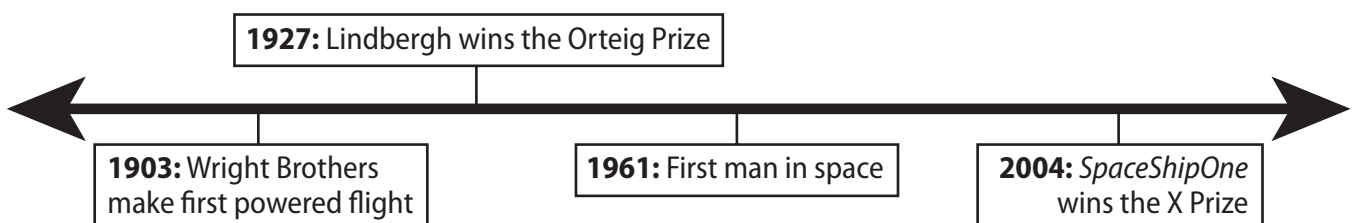
It jumps back in time again to talk about events in the history of space travel.

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Olivia is correct. As a whole, the passage hops back and forth in time to discuss different events. Notice, though, that in the section “Reaching the Frontier,” the author does list events in the history of space travel in time order. This helps to make things clearer to the reader.



Connections Timelines help you keep track of time and sequence. If you were writing a report on the history of flight, you might start a timeline like the one below. Based on information from “To Touch the Sky,” add “First Shuttle Mission” to the timeline.



Cause and Effect

2.A.3.a, b 2.A.4.f

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Carla mentions a secret Kimee told her about Nick. Nick gets angry with Kimee. Kimee gets angry with Carla. Carla and Kimee play poorly in their next basketball game. Their team loses.

The important connections among these events are *why* they happened and *what* the results were. We call this **cause and effect**. You might describe it as a chain of events. One thing caused another, which caused yet another effect, and so on.

Look Look for clue words like *because*, *as a result*, *in order to*, and *that's why*. They help you to understand which events are causes, and which are the effects of those causes.

Example

What does folding back its wings do for *SpaceShipOne*?

- Ⓐ It makes the ship fall more slowly. Ⓒ It makes the ship unable to go as high as the Space Shuttle.
- Ⓑ It helps the pilot avoid crashing. Ⓓ It lets the ship carry less fuel.

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- Ⓐ Cause is shown by words like *to*, *because*, and *in order to*. The ship “folds back its wings at an angle *to* slow its descent.”
- Ⓑ The author only mentions crashing in the first paragraph describing the Wright Brothers.
- Ⓒ The ship did not go as high as the Shuttle. However, there is no evidence that folding its wings is the cause.
- Ⓓ The passage does describe something that lets the ship carry less fuel—getting a ride on a larger plane.



Connections The diagram below is an easy way to show cause and effect. The arrows show that each step *causes* the next in a chain of events. What is the last effect in this chain? Write your answer in the empty box.

