

Sequencing Events

What is it? **Sequencing** events means listing them in the order they occurred. Organizing events in time order will help you understand why things happened as they did.

How to do it. As you read, look for words that signal time relationships between events. These words include *first, next, then, during, later, finally, before, after, at the same time, meanwhile*. Then say the order of events to yourself. Recording events in a flow chart will help you clarify the sequence.

Try it. Read the passage below and spot the words that signal time relationships. Then sequence the events in a flow chart.

It took many years to become a knight in Europe in the Middle Ages. At age seven, a boy left home to live in the castle of a lord. He then became a page. During this time, he learned to ride a horse. After about seven years, he became a squire and took care of his lord's horse and weapons. At the same time, he also trained to become a warrior and served his lord in battle.

In his early 20s, a worthy squire would become a knight. Before receiving this honor, a squire often spent a night in prayer, and then dressed in white to show purity. In a ceremony, the young man promised loyalty to his lord. The lord then tapped him on each shoulder with a sword to make him a knight.

