Writing Personal Narratives with Clear Event Sequences

A **personal narrative** is a story that someone writes about a real experience they had. It includes characters, a setting, and a series of events that are told in the order they happened (chronological order). To make a narrative clear and easy to follow, writers use **transition words** like *first*, *next*, *then*, *after that*, and *finally* to show how events are connected.

Example 2 Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- •Write a personal narrative about a real-life experience.
- •Organize events in a logical order using transition words.
- •Include details that describe thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- •Develop a beginning, middle, and end to their narrative.
- •Revise writing to improve clarity and sequencing.

Examples:

Example 1:

Last summer, I went hiking with my cousin. First, we packed our backpacks with snacks and water. Then, we hiked up the trail through the forest. I felt excited but also nervous—it was my first time on a real hike! After reaching the top, we sat and enjoyed the view. Finally, we walked back down, tired but happy. It was a day I'll never forget.

√ This example includes a clear sequence of events and transition words to guide the reader.

Test Yourself

Part 1: Brainstorming

Think of a time you experienced something meaningful. Complete the chart.

| Event | Where did it happen? | Who was there? | How did you feel? | What did you learn? |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | |

Part 2: Organize Your Story

Fill in the sequence chart:

| Beginning (What happened first?) | Middle (What happened next?) | End (How did it end?) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | |

| Name | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Writing Personal Narratives with Clear Event Sequences | | | | |
| Part 3: Write Your Narrative Use the lines below to write your story. Remember to use transition words like first, then, next, and finally. | | | | |
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