Name _____ Date _____

Time adverbs

Some adverbs tell us **when** something happens, and help us put things in order.

1 Learn



An **adverb** adds to a verb (a doing word). Some adverbs answer the question **When?** Words like **first**, **then**, **soon** and **later** are **time adverbs**.



First Mia planted a seed.



Then she watered it.



Soon a shoot popped up.



Later it was a sunflower!

Worked example: add a time adverb.

Leo fed his fish. _____ he cleaned his teeth.

1. Find the verb (the doing word): **cleaned**.
2. Ask **When?** When did he clean his teeth? After feeding the fish.
3. Choose a time adverb that fits: **Then** (or **Next**).
4. Read it again: *Leo fed his fish. **Then** he cleaned his teeth.* It makes sense!

Flip's tip: not every adverb ends in **-ly**. If a word answers **When?**, it is a time adverb: **now**, **next**, **soon**, **today**, **yesterday**, **later**.

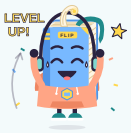
Warm up: draw a ring round the time adverb in each sentence.

1. Soon the bus came. 2. We will swim tomorrow. 3. Next, Sam put on his coat.

Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud and point to the pictures in order. For each one, ask "When did that happen?"

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Tell it in order

You need: 6 scraps of paper, a pencil, and a small job to do together, such as setting the table for two or packing a school bag.

1. Write one word on each scrap: **First**, **Then**, **Next**, **After that**, **Soon**, **Finally**. Lay them in a row.
2. Do the job together, one step at a time.
3. After each step, your child picks up a word and says what you did: *"First, we put out two plates."*
4. Write four of your sentences in the table, in order.
5. Mix up the scraps and tell it again. Does it still make sense if **Finally** comes first?

Time adverb	What we did

Grown-ups: "After that" is two words, but it does the same job as "next". If your child says "and then, and then, and then", praise the order and ask them to swap in a different time word.

3 Practise

A. Each sentence has two adverbs. Draw a ring round the one that tells you **when**.

1. Ava ran quickly to school yesterday.
2. Now the baby is sleeping peacefully.
3. Leo sang loudly today.
4. We soon walked carefully home.

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B. Fill each gap with a word from the box. Use each word once.

Then	soon	First	later



1. _____, Mia filled a pot with soil.
2. _____ she pushed a seed into the soil.
3. Very _____, a tiny green shoot popped up.
4. Much _____, the sunflower was taller than Mia!

C. Draw a ring round the time adverb that makes sense.

1. We will go to the beach tomorrow / yesterday.
2. I ate a big bowl of pasta tomorrow / yesterday.
3. The cake is in the oven. It will be ready soon / yesterday.

D. Write three sentences about your morning. Start them with **First**, **Then** and **Later**.

Challenge

Sam says, "**Soon** can't be an adverb, because it doesn't end in **-ly**." Is Sam right? How do you know?

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ say that an adverb adds to a verb
- ☐ find adverbs that tell me when
- ☐ use first, then, soon and later to put things in order