

First, Next, Last: Retell a Story in the Right Order — Year 1

Key points

- Retelling means telling a story again in your own words.
- The Department for Education's Year 1 English guidance includes listening to, discussing and retelling familiar stories.
- The guidance includes explaining what children understand about stories read to them, so you can read aloud while your child listens.
- For this activity, 'first', 'next' and 'last' are useful prompts for putting story events in order.
- Stories and teaching approaches vary by school, so ask your child's teacher which familiar story to try.

Things to try at home

- Share a favourite short story, then take turns remembering what happened first, next and last.
- Draw three simple pictures of story events, mix them up and invite your child to be a story detective: 'Which goes first, and what helped you decide?'
- Use toys to act out the story together, offering a gentle prompt if your child wants help.
- Invite your child to join in through words, pointing, gestures or their usual communication support, and use a home language if they prefer.
- Keep it short and playful: help with any muddled events by looking back together, and stop when your child has had enough.

Find out more

- Department for Education: National curriculum in England — English programmes of study; see 'Key stage 1 — year 1', 'Reading — comprehension':
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study>
- Your child's teacher: ask about familiar classroom stories and ways to adapt the activity for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or children learning English.