What are time connectives?

Time connectives are words that join phrases or sentences together to help us understand or to tell a reader WHEN something is happening. Words such as before, after, next, just then, shortly, afterwards, last, eventually, firstly, secondly, and thirdly, are all-time connectives.

A conjunction joins two ideas in one sentence, a connective joins ideas in different sentences/paragraphs.

Below is a list of some of the most frequently used time connectives:

First …

Second …

Then …

Next …

After that …

Finally …

Often, time connectives are used in conjunction in long sentences to explain a series of events:

Yesterday, I woke up at 8 o’clock, brushed my teeth and got dressed, next I went to school, then I played football with my friends. Finally, I had a bath and went to bed.