

Putting Ideas in Order

You can **put your ideas in order** in several different ways:

- To describe an event, use time order.
 - To describe a place or a thing, use space order. For example, go from top to bottom or from left to right.
 - To compare and contrast two things, describe their likenesses. Then describe their differences.
 - To explain causes and effects, describe the causes. Then explain the effects of the causes.
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Directions Read each paragraph. Decide whether the paragraph is in *time order*, *space order*, *comparison-contrast order*, or *cause-effect order*.

1. Garden flowers and wildflowers are both beautiful and colorful. However, garden flowers grow in small areas. They need to be weeded and watered by people. On the other hand, wildflowers often grow in big fields or forests. They just need sunlight and rain to keep growing.

comparison-contrast order

2. The Earth spins around one full time each day. For part of the day, one side of the Earth is away from the sun. This causes night on that side of the Earth.

cause-effect order

3. First, a mother butterfly lays an egg. Then a caterpillar comes out of the egg. Next, the caterpillar creates a cocoon. Finally, a butterfly comes out of the cocoon.

time order

4. On the ground of the forest are mosses and leaves. Right above the ground, wildflowers, grasses, and young trees grow. Over these are bushes. Above the bushes are shorter trees. The highest level of the forest is formed by the tops of the tallest trees.

space order

Directions Write a short description of a place. Use space order. **Possible answer:**

On the left side of the garden are tall lilies. In the middle are roses. On the right are daisies.
