

Beginning Conversations

Narratives usually occur within conversations, unless they're told as stories on stage. In the dialogues on videotape, the descriptions of weekend activities are introduced in various ways. Watch the dialogues, focusing on how the subject is brought up. Then fill in the information requested below.

Dialogue 1: Anthony explains to Ethan, his boss, why he couldn't finish his assignment over the weekend.

1. Summarize what happened over the weekend.

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday:

2. How was the topic of the weekend brought up?

Dialogue 2: Yolanda asks Sandra about her garden project.

1. Summarize what happened over the weekend.

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday:

2. How was the topic of the weekend brought up?

Dialogue 3: Ethan's weekend plans were cancelled. He tells Joe, his co-worker, what happened.

1. Summarize what happened over the weekend.

Friday:

Saturday:

2. How was the topic of the weekend brought up?

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Dialogue 4: Mary runs into Tina Jo at the gym, and tells her about her weekend.

1. Summarize what happened over the weekend.

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday:

2. How was the topic of the weekend brought up?

Dialogue 5: Anthony and Yolanda happen to meet on campus. She explains why she didn't go to the party on Saturday night.

1. Summarize what happened on Saturday.

2. How was the topic brought up?

Answers on pp. 146–147.

Now go back and watch the dialogues again, this time noticing how the signers use time signs to mark transitions and how they maintain continuity throughout their narratives. Dialogue 4, in particular, has a number of good examples.