

## Comprehension Skill: Sequencing

Complete the following items to practice the comprehension skill for this unit.

**Jazz great Miles Davis** is one of the most well known musicians of the twentieth century. Raised in East St. Louis, Illinois, he began playing the trumpet when he was a teenager. After some experience playing with jazz bands in his hometown, he decided to move to New York City in 1944. While in New York, he attended the Institute of Musical Art. He met other jazz musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie, who also played the trumpet, and Charlie Parker, who played the saxophone.

Davis continued to grow as a musician, and, in 1948, formed a group with eight other musicians. The group included some instruments that were unusual in jazz, like the French horn and tuba. As a result, the group had a new, fresh sound. In the 1950s, Davis played with a host of famous musicians, such as Sonny Rollins, Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Bill Evans, and Cannonball

Adderley, to name a few. At the end of the decade, he made what is perhaps his most famous recording, *Kind of Blue*. This recording focused on melodic, often beautiful, improvised solos. It had the melancholy sound that many people strongly associate with Davis.

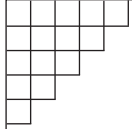
Davis continued to play his trumpet and make recordings throughout the 1960s. He experimented with different styles. Along with pianist Chick Corea and guitarist John McLaughlin, he delved into the possibilities of electronic instruments. He was outspoken about his childhood as the son of a dentist, pointing out that not all jazz artists came from poverty and suffering. Some, like Davis, play in the school band before making the big time. In the 1970s, he took a lengthy break from playing due to a car accident, but he returned to the music scene in the 1980s and continued to grow and experiment with music until he died in 1991.

**Learning Objective:**

- Identify the sequence of events in a biography, including events told through flashback.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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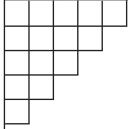
Circle *before* or *after* to make the sentence true.

1. Miles Davis started a group with eight other musicians before / after he went to the Institute of Musical Art.
2. Davis lived in New York City before / after he lived in East St. Louis.
3. Davis learned to play the trumpet before / after he met Dizzy Gillespie.
4. Davis made the recording *Kind of Blue* before / after he experimented with electronic instruments.
5. Davis played in the school band before / after playing with Sonny Rollins.
6. Davis took a break from playing jazz before / after he got into a car accident.
7. David became a famous musician before / after living in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Complete the flow chart with events from the life of Miles Davis. Place the events in chronological order, or the order they happened in real life.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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