Quiz
Here are Carrie’s instructions for making the snack called ‘Stripy Tigers’. For each stage of the process choose the correct linking word or expression from the options below:

1: ___ cut as many slices of bread as you need. White bread is best: not too thin or it will end up soggy.
   a) At firstly,
   b) To begin with,

2: ___ grill some rashers of bacon.
   a) Then,
   b) Before,

3: ___ the bacon is grilling, break 2 eggs into a bowl.
   a) While
   b) At same as

4: ___ add about 142 millilitres of milk and beat the milk and the eggs together.
   a) Next,
   b) Following,

5: ___ dip the bread into the bowl of eggs and milk and leave for a few seconds to soak up the mixture.
   a) Then
   b) After

6: ___ heat some oil in a frying pan.
   a) After you’ve done this,
   b) After do this,

7: ___ take the bread out of the bowl and put it in to the frying pan.
   a) When the oil is hot,
   b) While the oil is hot,
8: ___ golden brown on both sides take it out of the frying pan. Eat while it's hot,
topped with the rashers of bacon. If you don't like bacon, try spreading on some
jam or tomato ketchup!

a) Once the bread is – Correct.
b) Finally – Wrong.
ANSWERS

1: ___ cut as many slices of bread as you need. White bread is best: not too thin or it will end up soggy.
a) At firstly, – Wrong.
b) To begin with, – Correct.

2: ___ grill some rashers of bacon.
a) Then, – Correct.
b) Before, – Wrong.

3: ___ the bacon is grilling, break 2 eggs into a bowl.
a) While – Correct.
b) At same as – Wrong.

4: ___ add about 142 millilitres of milk and beat the milk and the eggs together.
a) Next, – Correct.
b) Following, – Wrong.

5: ___ dip the bread into the bowl of eggs and milk and leave for a few seconds to soak up the mixture.
a) Then – Correct.
b) After – Wrong.

6: ___ heat some oil in a frying pan.
a) After you've done this, – Correct.
b) After do this, – Wrong.

7: ___ take the bread out of the bowl and put it in to the frying pan.
a) When the oil is hot, – Correct.
b) While the oil is hot, – Wrong.

8: ___ golden brown on both sides take it out of the frying pan. Eat while it's hot, topped with the rashers of bacon. If you don't like bacon, try spreading on some jam or tomato ketchup!
a) Once the bread is – Correct.
b) Finally – Wrong.
Transcript

Callum
Hello. I'm Callum Robertson. In this How To, I'm going to be looking at how to give instructions.

Now we have looked at this topic before in the programme How To Describe a Process. In that programme we saw that the imperative was the standard verb form to use and that linking words such as 'then' and 'and' were important when describing the sequence of instructions. So, a basic series of instructions could be given as: do this, then do that, then do something else, for example.

Today we're going to focus on some more words and phrases which help to link different instructions together. To demonstrate this, we're going back into the kitchen. On our Learning English staff blog, our colleague Carrie wrote the recipe for scones – very tasty traditional British small cakes.

Carrie is here with me now and she's going to read her recipe for us. The recipe is a series of instructions each with an imperative verb. Before the imperative verb there is a linking word or expression.

Listen out for the different linking words and expressions. To help you will hear this sound [bell sound] before each one.

EXAMPLE
Carrie
To begin with, preheat the oven to 220 degrees centigrade. While the oven's heating, prepare the scones. Put the flour and butter in a bowl and use your fingertips to rub in the butter, so that the mixture looks like breadcrumbs. When this is done, stir in the sugar and salt. Next, use a knife to mix in the milk, a little bit at a time.

When it is all mixed in, use your hands to knead everything together into a soft dough. After this, put the dough on to a floured surface and use a rolling pin to roll the dough. The dough needs to be about 2cm thick. Once you've done this, use a round cutter to cut out circles and put them on a greased baking sheet.

Then put them in the oven and bake for 12-15 minutes. Finally, when they are golden brown, take the scones off the baking sheet and leave them to cool, or eat them straight away with butter and jam or clotted cream.
Callum
Thanks Carrie. Sounds delicious! Now let’s listen to some of this again and pick out the different linking expressions. How does she start?

**EXAMPLE**

**Carrie**
To begin with, preheat the oven to 220 degrees centigrade.

**Callum**
‘To begin with’ – to begin with.

The next instruction is for doing something that should be done at the same time as the first stage in the process.

**EXAMPLE**

**Carrie**
While the oven’s heating, prepare the scones.

**Callum**
‘While the oven’s heating’ – while something is happening, do something else, in this case prepare the scones. This is a useful structure to know because sometimes it is possible for more than one thing to be happening at the same time. Compare this with the next expression I’m going to pick out.

**EXAMPLE**

**Carrie**
When this is done, stir in the sugar and salt.

**Callum**
‘When this is done’ – in this case you have to complete the previous stage before continuing. ‘When this is done’ – this is a passive structure, but you could also say, ‘When you have done this – ’

This same idea is expressed later in two more ways:

**EXAMPLE**

**Carrie**
After this, put the dough onto a floured surface.
Once you’ve done this, use a round cutter to cut out circles.
Callum
‘After this’ and ‘once you’ve done this’ – two more ways of linking a sequence of instructions together.

And to finish the process? The following expression indicates the last stage, but it also gives a condition to be satisfied before the final stage should be carried out.

EXAMPLE
Carrie
Finally, when they are golden brown, take the scones off the baking sheet and leave them to cool, or eat them straight away with butter and jam or clotted cream.

Callum
‘Finally, when they are golden brown’ – ‘finally’ means it’s the last thing to do; but ‘when they are golden brown’ is the condition that needs to be satisfied before that final stage is done.

EXAMPLE
Carrie
Finally, when they are golden brown, take the scones off the baking sheet and leave them to cool, or eat them straight away with butter and jam or clotted cream.

Callum
Well, that’s the end of the recipe, and nearly the end of the programme. Before we go though, a quick recap of the language of today. We’ve looked at different expressions which link a series of instructions together. In each case the word or expression is followed by an imperative verb.

The words and phrases we’ve highlighted are:

To begin with –
While something is happening –
When this is done –
After this –
Once you’ve done this –
And finally –

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For a reminder of this language, more information on this topic and also another delicious recipe from Carrie, go to the How To page on the website.