

first vs. at first

POINT: 「At first」は誤って、「first」の意味で使われることが多い。

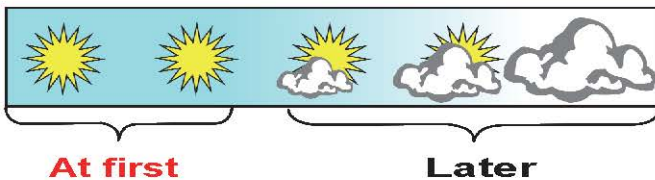
「First」は一連またはリストの項目に使用される。

First	Next	Then	After that	Finally	NOTE: 「Firstly」, 「secondly」などは昔風の英語である。
First	Second	Third	Fourth	Last	

Good Examples

- Figure 3 illustrates the fabrication process. **First**, Cu interconnection patterns are formed. **Next**, Al film is deposited. **Then**, annealing is carried out. **After that**, the Al on the SiO₂ is selectively removed. **Finally**, the sample is heated to 350°C.
- This paper **first** explains the current modulation mechanism. **Next**, some experimental results are presented to show that...
- Oxygen species affect the composition through various kinetic routes. **First**, oxygen atoms coming from... **Second**, oxygen atoms can be directly incorporated... **Third**, activated oxygen species react...
- However, there are problems with this configuration. **The first** is the requirement for a more compact system. **The second** problem is the need to prevent dust and eye injuries. **The third** concern is reproducibility.

「At first」は変化する状況を描写するのに使われる。



At first, it was sunny; but **later**, it got cloudy.

技術英語では、「at first」を使う場面が少ない。

Good Examples

- We start with a gate voltage of zero, and then increase it. **At first**, there are no excess electrons in the island. **But when** the gate voltage crosses the dotted line, one electron tunnels through into the island.

