

Time Conjunctions

- ◆ **before** = before a past time
e.g. Melissa started work last year.
She had graduated two years **before**.
(= two years before last year)
- ◆ **ago** = before now
e.g. Peter graduated four years **ago**.
(= four years before now)
- ◆ **by the time + clause** = before, not later than the moment something happens
e.g. I will have arranged everything **by the time** you come back. (= before, not later than the moment you come back)
- ◆ **until/till + clause/time adverb** = up to the time when
e.g. He will wait for you **until/till** you are ready.
(= up to the time when you are ready)
I'll be away **until/till** Tuesday. (= up to Tuesday)
- ◆ **by** = not later than
e.g. I have to be back **by** Tuesday evening.
(= not later than Tuesday evening)
Note: not ... until/till = not ... before
e.g. I will not sign anything **until/till/before** I have talked to my lawyer.
- ◆ **while/as + clause** = in the time period
e.g. The earthquake occurred **while/as** they were sleeping.
- ◆ **during + noun** = in the time period
e.g. The earthquake occurred **during** the night.
- ◆ **no sooner ... than** = hardly ... when
We use these structures to show that one action happened almost immediately after another action.
e.g. Sheila had **no sooner** finished reading the letter **than** she burst into tears.
I had **hardly** opened the door **when** the cat got out.
- ◆ **as soon as** = the moment (that)
e.g. Call me **as soon as/the moment (that)** you arrive.
- ◆ **when (time conjunction) + present tense**
when (question word) + will
e.g. **When** I see Tom, I'll let him know.
(time conjunction)
I don't know **when** he **will** be back.
(question word)

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In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below, as in the example.

SA: *When will they go home?*

SB: *When they finish their exam, they'll go home.*



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 go home/finish exam | 5 be paid/repair washing machine |
| 2 pay bill/get to desk | 6 serve dinner/finish cooking |
| 3 go home/do shopping | |
| 4 inform boss/check data | |

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Match the items in column A to those in column B to make correct sentences.

A	B
1 He went to university	a until I'm ready?
2 After she had passed her driving test,	b I couldn't believe it.
3 I'll call you	c she bought a new car.
4 When I heard the news,	d after he left school.
5 They locked all the doors	e before they left.
6 While he was sleeping,	f as soon as I arrive.
7 Will you wait for me	g somebody broke in.

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Underline the correct word(s).

- Sam got married last year. His brother had got married two years ago/before.
- The storm broke as/during the climbers were running for shelter.
- I expect Samantha will have woken up by/until nine o'clock.
- We'll stay in the house until/before it stops snowing.
- By/After I've finished my work, I'll go out.
- You are welcome to stay in my flat as long as/as soon as you like.