

## Time clauses (as soon as, when, before, while...)

The **time clauses** in the English language are introduced by:

- conjunctions such as **after, as soon as, before, till, until, when, whenever, while** or **time** OR
- expressions such as **the minute, the moment** etc.

We do not use the future tense (will) in a time clause to describe future activities (in this respect, it is similar to if clauses).

A **Time Clause** uses its verb in the **Simple Present**.

Compare:

<i>I'll come back home and I'll do it.</i>	<b>X</b>	<i>I'll do it when I come back home. (when I come is the time clause)</i>
<i>You will push this button and the door will open.</i>		<i>As soon as you push this button the door will open.</i>
<i>Don't stand up. First I'll tell you.</i>		<i>Don't stand up till (until) I tell you.</i>
<i>You'll need my car. Take it.</i>		<i>Whenever you need my car you can take it.</i>
<i>You'll tidy up the house and I'll do the shopping.</i>		<i>You'll tidy up the house while I do the shopping.</i>
<i>You will drop the bomb and it will explode.</i>		<i>The moment you drop the bomb it will explode.</i>

## Exercises

Chose the alternative that completes each sentence correctly:

- I **will do** my homework as soon as this programme **finishes**.
  - do, will finish
  - will do, finishes
- When she **reads** my letter, she **will understand** my problem.
  - reads, will understand
  - will read, understands
- Where **will** he **stay** when he **goes** to New York?
  - does-stay, will go
  - will-stay, goes
- We **will stay** in the classroom until the teacher **tells** us to leave.
  - will stay, tells
  - stay, will tell
- you **will give** her these when you **see** her?
  - do-give, will see
  - will-give, see
- I **will marry** you as soon as we **find** somewhere to live.
  - will marry, find
  - marry, will find
- As soon as we **get** the tickets, we **will send** them to you.
  - will get, send

b. get, will send

8. I **will ring** you as soon as I **arrive** at the hotel.

a. will ring, arrive

b. ring, will arrive

9. When our guests **arrive**, we **will eat**.

a. arrive, will eat

b. will arrive, eat

10. As soon as I **will have** some news, I **phone** you.

a. will have, phone

b. have, will phone