

As (As I walked along the street ... / As I was hungry ...)

A

As = at the same time as

You can use **as** when two things happen at the same time:

- ☐ We all waved goodbye to Liz **as** she drove away.
(We **waved** and she **drove** away at the same time)
- ☐ **As** I walked along the street, I looked in the shop windows.
- ☐ Can you turn off the light **as** you go out, please?



Or you can say that something happened **as you were doing** something else (in the middle of doing something else):

- ☐ Kate slipped **as she was getting off** the bus.
- ☐ We met Paul **as we were leaving** the hotel.

For the *past continuous* (**was getting** / **were going** etc.), see Unit 6.

You can also use **just as** (= exactly at that moment):

- ☐ **Just as** I sat down, the doorbell rang.
- ☐ I had to leave **just as** the conversation was getting interesting.

We also use **as** when two things happen together in a longer period of time:

- ☐ **As** the day went on, the weather got worse.
- ☐ I began to enjoy the job more **as** I got used to it.

the day went on

the weather got worse

Compare **as** and **when**:

We use **as** only if two things happen at the same time.

- ☐ **As I drove home**, I listened to music.
(= at the same time)

Use **when** (*not as*) if one thing happens after another.

- ☐ **When I got home**, I had something to eat. (*not As I got home*)

B

As = because

As also means 'because':

- ☐ **As I was hungry**, I decided to find somewhere to eat. (= because I was hungry)
- ☐ **As we have plenty of time** before our flight, let's go and have a coffee.
- ☐ We watched TV all evening **as we didn't have anything better to do**.
- ☐ **As I don't watch television any more**, I gave my TV to a friend of mine.

You can also use **since** in this way:

- ☐ **Since** we have plenty of time, let's go and have a coffee.

Compare **as** (= because) and **when**:

- ☐ I couldn't contact David **as he was on holiday**. (= because he was on holiday)
- ☐ **As they lived near us**, we used to see them quite often.
(= because they lived near us)

- ☐ David's passport was stolen **when he was on holiday**.
(= during the time he was away)
- ☐ **When they lived near us**, we used to see them quite often.
(= at the time they lived near us)