

# Time Conjunctions in English

Practice Worksheet for B1-B2 Learners

Name:

Date:

Score:

## Grammar reminder

Time conjunctions connect actions and show when something happens. Common examples include before, after, until, by the time, as soon as, once, since, when and while. In future time clauses, use the present simple after the time conjunction: I will call you when I arrive, not when I will arrive.

## Exercise 1: Match the time conjunctions with their meanings

Write the correct letter next to each time conjunction.

Time conjunction	Your answer	Meaning
1. before		A. during the time something is happening
2. after		B. from a starting point in time
3. until		C. earlier than another action
4. by the time		D. immediately after something happens
5. as soon as		E. later than another action
6. since		F. up to the moment something changes
7. while		G. not later than a particular moment

## Exercise 2: Choose the correct answer

Circle or underline the best time conjunction.

1. I will phone you (when / while / since) I get home.
2. She had already left (until / by the time / while) we arrived.
3. Please wash your hands (before / since / while) you eat.
4. They have lived in Bristol (for / since / until) 2019.
5. I was making dinner (when / since / until) the lights went out.
6. We waited (until / by the time / since) the bus finally came.
7. (Once / Since / While) you understand the rule, the exercise becomes easier.
8. He listened to a podcast (when / while / by the time) he was cleaning the kitchen.
9. (As soon as / Since / Until) the film ended, everyone started clapping.
10. She checked all the windows (after / before / while) leaving the house.

### Exercise 3: Complete the sentences

Complete each sentence with one suitable time conjunction from the box. You can use each one once.

**Word box**

before | after | until | by the time | as soon as | once | since | when | while

1. I have not seen my cousins \_\_\_\_\_ we moved to another town.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I opened the door, the dog ran into the garden.
3. We stayed at the cafe \_\_\_\_\_ the rain stopped.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ she finished university, she started looking for a job.
5. I always check my bag \_\_\_\_\_ I leave the house.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ we reached the station, the train had already left.
7. My brother usually listens to music \_\_\_\_\_ he is doing his homework.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ you learn these conjunctions, your stories will sound more natural.
9. I was walking to work \_\_\_\_\_ I saw an old school friend.

### Exercise 4: Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. I will send you a message when I will arrive.  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. She has known him since ten years.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. I waited by the time he came back.  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. We were watching a film while the phone rang.  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. By the time I got home, everyone went to bed already.  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. He brushed his teeth after go to bed.  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. I have not seen her for Monday.  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Once I will finish this report, I will go for a walk.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 5: Rewrite the sentences

Join the two sentences using the time conjunction in brackets. Make any necessary changes.

1. I arrived at the office. The meeting had already started. (by the time)

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2. She finished her homework. She watched a film. (after)

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3. I was cooking dinner. My sister called me. (when)

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4. He was waiting for the bus. He read the news on his phone. (while)

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5. You should read the instructions. You use the machine. (before)

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6. The children fell asleep. We cleaned the kitchen. (once)

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7. I started learning English. I was at primary school. (since)

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8. The rain stopped. We went outside. (as soon as)

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## Exercise 6: Complete the story

Complete the short story with suitable time conjunctions. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

Yesterday was not my lucky day. \_\_\_\_\_ I woke up, I realised that my alarm had not gone off. I got dressed quickly, but \_\_\_\_\_ I reached the bus stop, the bus had already left. I waited \_\_\_\_\_ another bus came, but it was terribly crowded. \_\_\_\_\_ I was standing near the door, someone stepped on my foot. I finally arrived at work forty minutes late. \_\_\_\_\_ I opened my laptop, my boss asked me to join an urgent meeting. I tried to look calm, but \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting ended, I was completely exhausted. Still, \_\_\_\_\_ I got home in the evening, I made myself a cup of tea and decided that tomorrow would be better.

# Exercise 7: Speaking and writing practice

Choose one task. Try to use at least six time conjunctions.

- 1. Tell a short story about a day when everything went wrong.
- 2. Describe your morning routine from the moment you wake up until you leave home.
- 3. Talk about something important you have done since you started learning English.
- 4. Write a short paragraph about a journey, a holiday or a memorable event.

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## Answer Key

*Some answers may vary in the open-ended exercises. Accept any grammatically correct sentence with a suitable time conjunction.*

### Exercise 1

1 C, 2 E, 3 F, 4 G, 5 D, 6 B, 7 A

### Exercise 2

1. when
2. by the time
3. before
4. since
5. when
6. until
7. Once
8. while
9. As soon as
10. before

### Exercise 3

1. since
2. As soon as / When
3. until
4. After
5. before
6. By the time
7. while
8. Once
9. when

### Exercise 4

1. I will send you a message when I arrive.
2. She has known him for ten years.
3. I waited until he came back.
4. We were watching a film when the phone rang.
5. By the time I got home, everyone had already gone to bed.
6. He brushed his teeth before going to bed. / He brushed his teeth before he went to bed.

7. I have not seen her since Monday.
8. Once I finish this report, I will go for a walk.

### Exercise 5

1. By the time I arrived at the office, the meeting had already started.
2. After she finished her homework, she watched a film. / She watched a film after she finished her homework.
3. I was cooking dinner when my sister called me.
4. He read the news on his phone while he was waiting for the bus.
5. You should read the instructions before you use the machine. / You should read the instructions before using the machine.
6. Once the children fell asleep, we cleaned the kitchen.
7. I have been learning English since I was at primary school.
8. As soon as the rain stopped, we went outside.

### Exercise 6

Possible answer:

When I woke up, I realised that my alarm had not gone off. I got dressed quickly, but by the time I reached the bus stop, the bus had already left. I waited until another bus came, but it was terribly crowded. While I was standing near the door, someone stepped on my foot. I finally arrived at work forty minutes late. As soon as I opened my laptop, my boss asked me to join an urgent meeting. I tried to look calm, but by the time the meeting ended, I was completely exhausted. Still, when I got home in the evening, I made myself a cup of tea and decided that tomorrow would be better.

### Exercise 7

Students answers will vary. Check that they use time conjunctions accurately and avoid using will after time conjunctions in future time clauses.