



# Time Clauses

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ENGLISH\_2: PRE-INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

LECTURE #7

2021-2022

# Time clauses

1 Look at this sentence.

*I'll give her a ring when I get home.*

It consists of two clauses: a main clause *I'll give her a ring* and a secondary clause *when I get home*.

2 These conjunctions of time introduce secondary clauses.

when while as soon as after before until

They are not usually followed by a future form. They refer to future time, but we use a present tense.

**When** I get home, I'll ...

**While** we're away, ...

**As soon as** I hear from you, ...

Wait here **until** I get back.



# Will

## Form

For the forms of *will*, see p134.

## Use

- 1 *Will* expresses a decision or intention made at the moment of speaking.

Give me your case. I'll carry it for you.

- 2 It also expresses a future fact. The speaker thinks 'This action is sure to happen in the future'.

Manchester **will** win the cup.

Tomorrow's weather **will** be warm and sunny.

This use is like a neutral future tense. The speaker is predicting the future, without expressing an intention, plan, or personal judgement.

# First conditional

## Form

*if* + Present Simple, *will* + infinitive without *to*

## Positive and negative

<b>if</b>	I work hard, I she has enough money, she we don't hurry up, we you're late, I	'll (will) won't	pass my exams. buy a new car. be late. wait for you.
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## Question

What Where	will	you do she go	<b>if</b>	you don't go to university? she can't find a job?
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## Short answer

Will you go to university if you pass your exams?

Yes, I will.

No, I won't.

If we look after the planet, will we survive?

Yes, we will.

No, we won't.

## Note

The condition clause *if ...* can come at the beginning of the sentence or at the end. If it comes at the beginning, we put a comma at the end of the clause. If it comes at the end, we do not use a comma.

If I work hard, I'll pass my exams.

I'll pass my exams if I work hard.

## Use

- 1 The first conditional is used to express a possible condition and a probable result in the future.

If my cheque **comes**, I'll buy us all a meal.

You'll **get** wet if you **don't take** an umbrella.

What'll **happen** to the environment if we **don't look after** it?

## Note

- 1 English uses a present tense in the condition clause, not a future form.

If it **rains** ... NOT If it ~~will rain~~ ...

If I **work** hard ... NOT If ~~I'll work~~ hard ...

- 2 *If* expresses a possibility that something will happen; *when* expresses what the speaker sees as certain to happen.

If I find your book, I'll send it to you.

**When** I get home, I'll have a bath.

## Verb pattern 2

Verb patterns were first covered in Unit 5. There is a list of verb patterns on p143.

1 Verb + *to* + infinitive

They **managed to escape**.

I **try to visit** somewhere new.

We **decided to go** abroad.

2 *go* + *-ing* for sports and activities

Let's **go skiing**.

We **went dancing**.

3 Verb + sb + infinitive without *to*

My teachers **made me work** hard.

My parents **let me go out** when I want.



# Used to

## Form

*used + to + infinitive*

*Used to* is the same in all persons.

## Positive and negative

I	used to	smoke.
She	didn't use to	like cooking.
We		
They		

## Question

What did you use to do?

## Short answer

Did you use to smoke a lot? Yes, I did./No, I didn't.



## Note

- 1 The question form is not often used. We ask a question in the Past Simple, and reply using *used to*.

Where **did** you **go** on holiday when you were young?

We **used to go** camping in France.

- 2 *Never* is often used.

I **never** used to watch TV.

- 3 Be careful not to confuse to *use* (e.g. *I use a knife to cut an apple.*) and *used to*.

The pronunciation is also different.

to use /ju:z/    used to /ju:stʊ:/ or /ju:stə/



## Use

*Used to* is used:

1 to express a past habit.

He **used to** play football every Saturday, but now he doesn't.

2 to express a past state.

They **used to** be happy together, but now they fight all the time.



# Used to and the Past Simple

- 1 The Past Simple can also be used to express a past habit or state.  
He **played** football every Sunday when he **was** a boy.  
They **were** happy together when they **were** first married.
- 2 Only the Past Simple can be used for actions which happened once in the past.  
We used to go to France every summer, but once, in 1987, we **went** to Greece.  
Last night I **drank** champagne.

## Note

*Used to* has no equivalent in the present. The Present Simple is used for present habits and states.

She **lives** in New York.

She sometimes **comes** to London on business.

# Infinitives

- 1 Infinitives are used to express purpose. They answer the question *Why ... ?* This use is very common in English.

I'm learning English **to get** a good job.

She's saving her money **to buy** a car.

I'm going to Scotland **to visit** my parents.

## Note

Some languages express this idea of purpose with a translation of *for + infinitive*. English does not use *for*.

I came here **to learn** English.


NOT I came here ~~for to~~ learn English.

I came here ~~for~~ learn English.

- 2 Infinitives are used after certain adjectives.

I'm	pleased surprised	to see you.
It's	hard important impossible	to learn Chinese.





3 Infinitives are used after the question words *who, what, where, how, etc.*

Can you tell me **how to get** to the station?

I don't know **who to speak** to.

Show me **what to do**.

4 Infinitives are used after the compounds *something, nothing, nowhere, anybody, etc.*

Have **something to eat**!

I've got **nothing to do**.

There's **nowhere to hide**.

Is there **anyone to talk** to?



Thank you