

Conjunctions are English words that **connect words or phrases**. Sometimes we want to show a more complicated relationship between the ideas, like a relationship involving **time**. Some common time conjunctions are: **when, after, before, until, since, while, once, as** and **as soon as**.

- *I like to have the radio on **while** I study.*
- ***Before** he plays football, James always does a warm-up.*

In these cases, we use *subordinating conjunctions*. Subordinating conjunctions link an independent clause/main clause with a dependent clause of time.

Conjunction Use

before The main clause happens earlier in time.

after The main clause happens later in time.

until/till The main clause happens up to the time when the dependent clause happens.

as soon as The main clause happens immediately after the dependent clause.

once

while The main clause happens at the same time as the dependent clause.

when The main clause happens after the dependent clause, or at the same time.

since The main clause began at the moment the dependent clause happened.

as The main clause happens while the dependent clause is in progress.

during The main clause happens at the same time as the dependent clause.

Example

*She made her bed **before** she left the house.*

***After** I ate dinner, I went to bed.*

*I'm not leaving **until** you say sorry.*

*Romeo fell in love **as soon as** he saw Juliet.*

***Once** your grandpa gets here, we're leaving for dinner.*

***While** Steve cut the onions, Jean peeled the potatoes.*

***When** he saw her, he smiled.*

***When** I lived in Norway, I lived with a local family.*

*We've been friends **since** the second grade.*

*We got to the party **as** everyone was leaving.*

***During** the Alaskan winter, the sun is hardly ever seen.*

whenever The main clause always happens as a result of the dependent clause. **Whenever I see her, I smile.**

Watch this video from Nick Shepherd to learn about several time conjunctions (or 'linkers') that are used to link clauses of time:

See also:

[Conjunctions of Contrast](#)

[Coordinating Conjunctions](#)