

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	Example
before The main clause happens earlier in time.	<i>She made her bed before she left the house.</i>
after The main clause happens later in time.	<i>After I ate dinner, I went to bed.</i>
until/till The main clause happens up to the time when the dependent clause happens.	<i>I'm not leaving until you say sorry.</i>
as soon as The main clause happens immediately after the dependent clause.	<i>Romeo fell in love as soon as he saw Juliet.</i>
once	<i>Once your grandpa gets here, we're leaving for dinner.</i>
while The main clause happens at the same time as the dependent clause.	<i>While Steve cut the onions, Jean peeled the potatoes.</i>
when The main clause happens after the dependent clause, or at the same time.	<i>When he saw her, he smiled.</i>
since The main clause began at the moment the dependent clause happened.	<i>When I lived in Norway, I lived with a local family.</i>
as The main clause happens while the dependent clause is in progress.	<i>We've been friends since the second grade.</i>
during The main clause happens at the same time as the dependent clause.	<i>We got to the party as everyone was leaving.</i>
	<i>During the Alaskan winter, the sun is hardly ever seen.</i>

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](#)