

# 94 Linking words for time

## 1 Common linking words for time

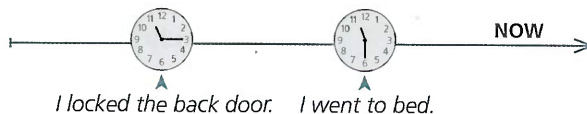
We use linking words (e.g. *when, before, after, until, while*) to talk about time.

- We use *when, before, after* to show the order of events:

*I'll call you **when** we get back from our holiday.*

*I locked the back door **before** I went to bed.*

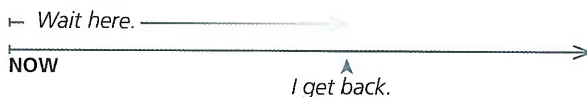
*I went to bed **after** I locked the back door.*



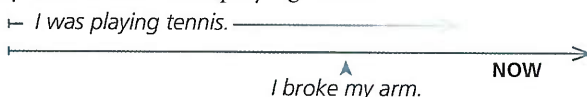
- We can also use *when, while* and *until* to talk about a period of time:

*We heard the news **when** we were in France.*

*Wait here **until** I get back.*



*I broke my arm **while** I was playing tennis.*



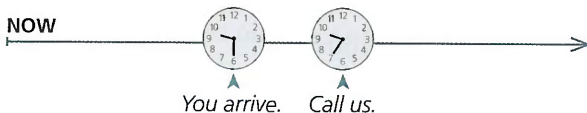
Look at the difference between *while* and *during*:

*I broke my arm **while** I was playing tennis. (while + verb)*

*I broke my arm **during** a game of tennis. (during + noun)*

- as soon as* means 'immediately when':

*Please call us **as soon as** you arrive.*



*after* and *before* + *-ing* > Unit 95.1    *when* and *while* + past continuous > Unit 48.2

## 2 Future time

When we are talking about the future, we use a PRESENT tense after *when, before, after, until, as soon as*. We don't use *will* or *going to*:

FUTURE TENSE	LINKING WORD	PRESENT TENSE
<i>I think I'll get a good job</i>	<i>when</i>	<i>I finish this course.</i>
<i>She will come and see us</i>	<i>before</i>	<i>she leaves.</i>
<i>We're going to have a long holiday</i>	<i>after</i>	<i>he gets out of hospital.</i>
<i>Will you wait</i>	<i>until</i>	<i>I come home?</i>
<i>They'll call us</i>	<i>as soon as</i>	<i>they have any news.</i>

- ✗ *They'll call us as soon as they will have any news.*
- ✓ *They'll call us as soon as they have any news.*

## 3 Commas

If a linking word begins the sentence, we use a comma. We don't use a comma if the linking word is in the middle of the sentence:

*As soon as they have any news, they'll call us. (comma)*

*They'll call us as soon as they have any news. (no comma)*