

Time Clauses in the Present

Clause: has a subject and a verb.

Independent Clause – has a subject, a verb, and a complete idea.

- I work today.

Dependent Clause – has a subject and a verb, but the idea is not complete.

- **Mary raises.** *The idea is not complete. Mary raises what? Mary raises her hand in class.*

Time Clauses

Time clauses contain a subject and a verb. Adverbials of time are: BEFORE AFTER, WHEN, AS SOON AS, and WHILE.

- **Before I go,** *These are **not** complete sentences. The time words make the*
- **After he goes,** *idea incomplete. These dependent clauses must be connected to*
- **When we eat,** *an independent clause to be a complete sentence.*

Complete Sentences

- **Before I go (2) to work, I have (1) a cup of coffee.** *Notice that the verbs are in*
 - **After I have a cup of coffee, (1) I go (2) to work.** *the present tense in both*
 - **When we eat, we always sit at the kitchen table.** *clauses. Notice the order of*
- the actions.*

All of the above examples are habits that are performed on a regular basis.

For a complete explanation, watch the grammar video on the present tense.

Exercise:

Combine the following sentences using the time word prompt. Make sure that the order of the ideas makes sense.

Example: Mary goes to school. She eats breakfast. (Before)

Before Mary goes to school, she eats breakfast. OR Mary eats breakfast before she goes to school.

Mary goes to school. She eats breakfast. (After)

After Mary eats breakfast, she goes to school. OR Mary goes to school after she eats breakfast.

1. We order our meal. The waitress brings it to the table. (after)

_____.

2. I always do my homework. I go to class. (before)

_____.

3. My phone rings. I answer it. (when)

_____.

4. Bob's alarm goes off. He turns it off. (when)

_____.

5. Karen brushes her teeth. She goes to bed. (after)

_____.

6. Karen brushes her teeth. She goes to bed. (before)

_____.

7. It rains. I close my car windows. (when)

_____.

8. Susan makes the coffee. She drinks it. (after)

_____.

9. I get dinner ready. My husband sets the table. (while)

_____.

10. They exercise, they take a shower. (after)

_____.

11. I buy a book. I read a little of it to see if I like it. (before)

_____.

12. Mary gets home. She lies down to rest. (as soon as)

_____.

13. Our children play outside. My wife and I work in the garden. (while)

_____.

14. In the winter, I turn the heat on. I get home. (as soon as)

_____.

Answers: 1. After we order our meal, the waitress brings it to the table. OR The waitress brings our meal to the table after we order it. 2. I always do my homework before I go to class. OR Before I go to class, I always do my homework. 3. When my phone rings, I answer it. OR I answer my phone when it rings. 4. When Bob's alarm goes off, he turns it off. OR Bob turns his alarm off when it goes off. 5. After Karen brushes her teeth, she goes to bed. OR Karen goes to bed after she brushes her teeth. 6. Before Karen goes to bed, she brushes her teeth. OR Karen brushes her teeth before she goes to bed. 7. When it rains, I close my car windows. OR I close my car windows when it rains. 8. After Susan makes the coffee, she drinks it. OR Susan drinks the coffee after she makes it. 9. While I get dinner ready, my husband sets the table. 10. After they exercise, they take a shower. OR They take a shower after they exercise. 11. Before I buy a book, I read a little of it to see if I like it. OR I read a little of a book before I buy it. 12. As soon as Mary gets home, she lies down to rest. OR Mary lies down to rest as soon as she gets home. 13. Our children play outside while my wife and I work in the garden. OR While my wife and I work in the garden, our children play outside. 14. (In the winter) I turn the heat on as soon as I get home. OR As soon as I get home, I turn the heat on.