

## When . . .

A

## When I went out, it was raining.

This sentence has two parts:

**when I went out** + **it was raining**

You can say:

- When I went out**, it was raining. or  
**It was raining** when I went out.

We write a comma (,) if **When** . . . is at the beginning:

- When** you're tired, don't drive.  
Don't drive **when** you're tired.
- Heather was 25 **when** she got married.  
**When** Heather got married, she was 25.

We do the same in sentences with **before/while/after**:

- Always look both ways **before** you cross the street.  
**Before** you cross the street, always look both ways.
- While** I was waiting for the bus, it began to rain.  
It began to rain **while** I was waiting for the bus.
- He never played football again **after** he broke his leg.  
**After** he broke his leg, he never played football again.

B

## When I am . . . / When I go . . ., etc.

Next week Sarah is going to New York.  
She has a friend, Hannah, who lives in New York,  
but Hannah is also going away – to Mexico.  
So they won't see each other in New York.

Hannah **will be** in Mexico **when** Sarah **is** in New York.

The time is **future** (**next week**), but we say:  
... **when** Sarah **is** in New York.  
(not when Sarah **will be**)

We use the **present** (**I am** / **I go**, etc.) with a **future meaning** after **when**:

- When I get** home tonight, I'm going to take a shower.  
(not When I **will get** home)
- I can't talk to you now. I'll talk to you later **when I have** more time.

We do the same after **before/while/after/until**:

- Please close the window **before** you **go** out.  
(not before you **will go**)
- Rachel is going to stay in our apartment **while** we **are** away.  
(not while we **will be**)
- I'll wait here **until** you **come** back.  
(not until you **will come** back)

# Exercises

96.1 Write sentences beginning with **When**. Choose from the boxes.

When +

~~I went out~~

I'm tired

I knocked on the door

I go on vacation

the program ended

I got to the hotel

+

I turned off the TV

I always go to the same place

there were no rooms

~~it was raining~~

there was no answer

I like to watch TV

1 When I went out, it was raining.

2

3

4

5

6

96.2

Complete the sentences using the following:

somebody broke into the house    before they came here    when they heard the news  
~~before they crossed the street~~    while they were away    they didn't believe me  
 they went to live in France

1 They looked both ways ... before they crossed the street

2 They were very surprised

3 After they got married,

4 Their house was damaged in a storm

5 Where did they live

6 While we were asleep,

7 When I told them what happened,

96.3

Which is right?

1 I stay / I'll stay here until you come / you'll come back. (I'll stay, you come are right)

2 I'm going to bed when I finish / I'll finish my work.

3 We must do something before it's / it will be too late.

4 Lauren is moving away soon. I'm / I'll be very sad when she leaves / she'll leave.

5 Don't go out yet. Wait until the rain stops / will stop.

6 We come / We'll come and visit you when we're / we'll be in Toronto again.

7 When I come / I'll come to see you tomorrow, I bring / I'll bring our vacation photos.

8 I'm going to Quebec next week. I hope to see some friends of mine while I'm / I'll be there.

9 Let's go for a walk before it gets / it will get too dark.

10 I'm not ready yet. I tell / I'll tell you when I'm / I'll be ready.

96.4

Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

1 Can you close the window before you go out ?

2 What are you going to do when

3 When I have enough money,

4 I'll wait for you while

5 When I start my new job,

6 Will you be here when