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Basics. Time Conjunctions: When, While, Before, and After

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Clause | Complex sentence | Conjunction | Imperative mood | Past tense | Present tense | Verb tense | Perfect tense | Progressive tense

1. Help Detective Barnaby review the suspect's shaky alibi by selecting the most logical time words.

"The suspect claims he was peacefully watering his plants _____ the bank's security alarm suddenly blared. He stated that he hid under his bed immediately _____ he heard the loud police sirens. However, our security footage shows him running away with a bag of cash five minutes _____ the alarm even started!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** when
- **B)** while
- **C)** after

Blank 2

- **A)** after
- **B)** before
- **C)** while

Blank 3

- **A)** before
- **B)** after
- **C)** while

2. Read about a student's embarrassing lecture hall experience. Select ALL the sentences that correctly describe the chaotic events using time conjunctions!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** My phone started ringing loudly while the professor was explaining the final assignment.
- **B)** I was desperately trying to silence the alarm when I dropped my heavy backpack.
- **C)** While my phone started ringing, the professor explained the final assignment.
- **D)** I dropped my backpack while I was desperately try to silence the alarm.
- **E)** The whole class chuckled after I finally turned the device off.

3. Help the teenager text their best friend about last night's disastrous stealth mission by matching the appropriate time words to the blanks.

I successfully disarmed the front door security system _____ my parents woke up.

I was tiptoeing across the dark living room _____ the family dog suddenly attacked my shoelaces.

My dad just stood in the hallway sipping his coffee _____ I tried to explain why I was crawling on the floor at 2 AM.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** before
- **B)** while
- **C)** after

Blank 2

- **A)** when
- **B)** while
- **C)** after

Blank 3

- **A)** while
- **B)** before
- **C)** after

4. Help Chef Gordon prepare the kitchen for a busy dinner service! Select ALL the instructions that use time conjunctions and verb tenses correctly.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Please chop the onions while the water is boiling.
- **B)** I will plate the dessert after the guests will finish their main course.
- **C)** We need to sanitize the counters before the health inspector arrives.
- **D)** When the timer rings, take the soufflé out of the oven immediately.
- **E)** Don't open the oven door while the cake will bake.

5. Help Chef Linguini document his chaotic evening in the official kitchen incident report by selecting the correct time words.

"I always try to chop the vegetables _____ the water comes to a boil, so I am prepped and ready in time. However, tonight was a disaster. The fire alarm triggered exactly _____ the oven suddenly burst into flames! I had to clean the entire kitchen by myself long _____ all the guests had safely gone home."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** before
- **B)** after
- **C)** while

Blank 2

- **A)** when
- **B)** while
- **C)** after

Blank 3

- **A)** after
- **B)** before
- **C)** while

6. Help the exhausted parents finish their text message to the babysitter.

We finally sat down to enjoy a warm cup of coffee _____ the energetic toddlers had completely destroyed the living room and fallen asleep.

Select one.

- **A)** when
- **B)** while
- **C)** before
- **D)** after

7. Help the restaurant manager complete the incident report about last night's chaotic dinner service by dragging the correct time words into the blanks.

The fire alarm started blaring _____ the pastry chef was attempting a dangerous flambé trick.

The guests started applauding _____ the sprinklers suddenly turned on, thinking it was part of the show.

We had to offer everyone free dessert _____ the fire department finally cleared the building.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** while
- **B)** before
- **C)** after

Blank 2

- **A)** when
- **B)** while
- **C)** before

Blank 3

- **A)** after
- **B)** before
- **C)** while

8. Complete the time traveler's crucial safety manual.

Always remember to double-check the time machine's coordinates _____ you accidentally transport yourself into a herd of angry dinosaurs.

Select one.

- **A)** when
- **B)** while
- **C)** before
- **D)** after

9. Complete the time traveler's frantic logbook entry by dragging the correct time conjunctions into the gaps.

You must memorize the emergency escape codes _____ you step into the portal, or you might end up stranded in the Middle Ages!

The machine needs to cool down for exactly one hour _____ it completes a temporal jump.

My chronometer started beeping wildly _____ I accidentally stepped on a prehistoric butterfly.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** before
- **B)** after
- **C)** while

Blank 2

- **A)** after
- **B)** when
- **C)** before

Blank 3

- **A)** when
- **B)** while
- **C)** after

10. Complete the time traveler's frantic logbook entry by choosing the correct timeline words.

"I dropped my laser screwdriver _____ I was sprinting away from an angry Triceratops. _____ I managed to safely lock the time machine doors, I finally took a deep breath. Now, I must recharge the battery _____ the giant meteor hits the planet!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** while
- **B)** before
- **C)** after

Blank 2

- **A)** After
- **B)** Before
- **C)** While

Blank 3

- **A)** before
- **B)** after
- **C)** while

11. Help the clumsy chef complete his apology note to the bride.

I was happily carrying the magnificent five-tier wedding cake out of the kitchen _____ I suddenly slipped on a stray meatball.

Select one.

- **A)** when
- **B)** while
- **C)** before
- **D)** after

12. Help Detective Holmes establish the timeline of the museum heist! Select ALL the statements that are grammatically logical and correctly use time conjunctions to sequence the past events.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The thief had already escaped before the police arrived.
- **B)** After the suspect left the building, the security camera mysteriously malfunctioned.
- **C)** The alarm went off before the burglar will break the window.
- **D)** The guard dog was barking wildly while the intruder try to pick the lock.
- **E)** The backup team arrived when the sun was just coming up.